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Arab-Israeli Talks

Beilin Meets PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh in Tunis

TA1110191893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] This evening in Tunis, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin met with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Political Department, to discuss the bulk of issues regarding the ties between Israel and the Palestinians, and the Tabah and Cairo talks. Our correspondent in Tunis Arye Gus reports that, in the meeting, Deputy Minister Beilin raised the grave consequences of the recent terror attacks, and told 'Abd-Rabbuh that the parties must do everything they can to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh stressed that the PLO is committed to peace, and said that intensive discussions are called for to meet the timetable determined in the declaration of principles.

Deputy Minister Beilin will probably meet PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat tomorrow.

Israeli MK Urges Release of Palestinian Detainees

NC1110105693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1026 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis, 11 Oct (MENA)—Israeli Knesset member [MK] Talab al-Sani' (a 1948 Palestinian from Israel) has called on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to release all Palestinian detainees and prisoners as soon as possible as an expression of good intentions toward the Palestinian people and the PLO following the signing of the declaration of principles between the PLO and Israel. He also called on Rabin to halt all the occupation forces' repressive practices and to allow all the deportees to return immediately.

In a speech he delivered before the Palestinian Central Council [PCC] today, al-Sani' stressed that Jerusalem is the capital of the independent Palestinian state that will come into being after the implementation of the declaration of principles and the end of the transitional period.

Al-Sani', the representative of the Arab Democratic Party [ADP] in the Israeli Knesset, called on the PCC to ratify the declaration of principles because it is the first step toward the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. He pledged to the PLO that the ADP will support it in the reconstruction battle just as it has supported it in the liberation battle.

The Knesset member kissed the Palestinian flag before making his speech and was embraced by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat when he finished it.

Liaison Committees To Meet in Cairo, Tabah 13 Oct

NC1010154993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] The Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, which Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin agreed to establish during their talks in Cairo on 6 October, will meet in Cairo on the foreign ministers' level on Wednesday [13 October]. The committee will discuss measures, timetables, and steps for implementing the Declaration of Principles and its annexes. The two sides will work out an agreement on establishing the necessary structures that will assume responsibility during the next stage.

Meetings of a joint military committee will open in Tabah on the same day to discuss the details of the military withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Qaddumi Address PLO Central Council

NC1110112293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis, 11 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has announced that the PLO resorted to clandestine negotiations with Israel when the Washington talks became deadlocked and failed to produce results after 22 months of negotiations.

In his speech to the PLO Central Council in Tunis today, 'Arafat disclosed that some Arab parties participating in the peace negotiations had warned the PLO that they could not wait five years until the end of the Palestinian transitional period before signing a final agreement with Israel. 'Arafat said that these parties had told him that every party must solve its own problems.

He declared: That is why we resorted to secret negotiations to solve our problems with Israel. The PLO does not lack the ability to solve these problems.

'Arafat said that the PLO had told several Arab parties of its prospective agreement with Israel but they did not believe it. He added that the agreement has no secret articles or annexes, as some people have claimed. He pointed out that the agreement was formally submitted to the United Nations, the Arab League, and regional and international organizations as an official document.

In his speech, 'Arafat reviewed the stages of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the resolutions pertaining to it that were adopted by Arab summit meetings and Palestine National Council [PNC] sessions. He referred to the PNC's resolution "to establish a national authority over any part of the occupied Palestinian territory that is liberated or from which withdrawal takes place."

'Arafat said that the PLO had decided to participate in the Madrid conference despite the unfair conditions

imposed on it in connection with representation and the objections that were raised to Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi because they are Jerusalem residents. He pointed out that the PLO nevertheless succeeded in developing the representation issue to the point that the Palestinian delegation became the PLO delegation. He noted that the PLO did not join the negotiations separately but in line with an overall Arab decision.

'Arafat remarked that the Palestinian nation has been established on the political map for the first time, pointing out that this will inevitably be followed by the Palestinian people being established on the geographical map. He said that the Palestinians do not possess intercontinental ballistic missiles and "a man should know the extent of his worth and abilities."

'Arafat affirmed that the Palestinian negotiating delegation will continue its discussions in Washington to hammer out agreement on numerous issues, including elections, powers, and the transfer of West Bank and Gaza territory to the Palestinians.

'Arafat called on all supporters and opponents of the agreement to participate earnestly in building a Palestinian entity and state, noting that this state will be pluralistic, democratic, and will respect human rights. He said everyone must participate in shaping the Palestinian future and building a state with competence, knowledge, and faith. He pointed out that this state will be built on the land of three religions and the cradle of divine messages. He said that after the Palestinian state is established, he will become trustee and guardian of the three religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam [wa annahu sayakun ba'da iqamat hathihi al-dawlah al-filastiniyah mas'ulan wa ra'iyan li al-diyanat al-thalath, al-yahudiyah, wa al-masihiyah, wa al-islam]. 'Arafat emphasized the numerous positive aspects in the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles. In a reference to the signing ceremony at the White House, he noted that the world has recognized the Palestinians as a nation for the first time in the modern era.

He added that the PLO has not forgotten the Jerusalem issue, which is an Arab-Islamic cause. He explained that in line with the agreement with Israel, a Jerusalem committee has been formed which will be cochaired by Faysal al-Husayni for the Palestinian side and Moshe Shahal for the Israelis. 'Arafat declared that Jerusalem residents will participate in the elections both as voters and candidates.

'Arafat said that a four-member committee comprising representatives from Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and the PLO will meet in Cairo soon to discuss the repatriation of the citizens displaced in 1967 [Nazihun], pointing out that 675,000 of these people currently reside in Jordan and 200,000 in Egypt.

Chief of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi delivered a speech in which he stressed the need to discuss the agreement very seriously and carefully to preserve the Palestinian national unity. We are up against a new challenge that necessitates Palestinian national unity, Arab accord and coordination with Arab parties, particularly those concerned with negotiations, and continued distinctive relations with fraternal Jordan, Qaddumi said.

Qaddumi underlined the need to maintain the PLO because it is the organization that takes care of the Palestinian national interests inside the territories and abroad. He affirmed that the PLO is the guarantee for the Palestinian people's success in obtaining their lawful rights.

In his speech, Qaddumi reviewed the early stages of negotiations, starting with the Madrid summit, the stances adopted by the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government, the persistence of these stances even after the coming of a new U.S. Administration and a new Israeli government representing the Labor party, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour, through the 10th round of negotiations which continued to encounter difficulties due to the Israeli and U.S. stands—stands that tried to alter the basics of the peace process until it reached a dead end.

Qaddumi pointed out that the PLO leadership worked via many Arab and international channels to rescue negotiations from the stalemate. He noted that one of these channels led to the agreement currently referred to the Central Council—the agreement which the majority of the PLO Executive Committee had approved.

Mahmud 'Abbas—Abu-Mazin—member of the PLO Executive Committee and chairman of the Higher Committee for Negotiations, affirmed in his speech that the agreement on the declaration of principles can either lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state or to the consolidation of the Israeli occupation. He explained that the Palestinian people's efforts can either lead to independence or to the further entrenchment of the occupation. He pointed out that this makes it incumbent on all to learn how to build institutions capable of accepting that challenge. We have to move from the revolution mentality to the mentality of the state and to put on new attire so that we can build our state, he said.

Abu-Mazin affirmed that the declaration of principles agreement includes five appendices which were all publicized. He asserted that there are no secret appendices and that reports about such secret appendices are the sheer fantasies of a sick mind. He remarked that the declaration of principles will provide the basis for negotiations in the coming days, that it links the interim phase to the final stage that will lead to the implementation of Resolution 242, and that the PLO, just like Egypt, will not let the Israeli interpretation of that resolution prevail.

'Abbas added that the agreement settles many questions, some of which will be discussed in the interim stage and others in the final stage. He noted that the agreement also establishes the issue of Jerusalem; it stipulates that the inhabitants of Jerusalem are part of the elected Palestinian council and that Jerusalem is Arab. He explained that the

issue of the refugees was deferred to the period following the interim stage in order to avoid bargaining on it. He affirmed that the issue will be discussed at multilateral talks as well as during the final stage.

'Abbas remarked that it is not possible to return all the 1967 refugees at one time because utilities and institutions in Gaza and Jericho could not absorb them all at one time.

Fatah Central Committee Member Ahmad Quray'—Abu-'Ala'—delivered a speech in which he reviewed the progress of the secret contacts from the beginning. He explained how these contacts were informal and then became official and how it was necessary to keep them secret until an agreement was reached.

Quray' stressed that the agreement should be read from the strategic perspective. He affirmed that it is not a final agreement, but rather an agreement about a transitional period that requires serious efforts so that a Palestinian state can be established by the time the final stages are reached.

Abu-'Ala', who initialed the agreement in Oslo, added that the agreement's economic appendix provides for economic cooperation between the Palestinian entity and Israel, and not for Palestinian subordination, as some people claim. He said that the Palestinian economy, which was totally subordinate to the Israeli economy during the occupation, will be independent.

The Central Council will resume its meetings today and tomorrow to hear the arguments of its members and discuss potential action in the coming stage. The agreement will then be put to a vote for ratification.

'Abbas, Quray' Address Session

JN1110130493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Muhammad Kurayshan report from Tunis]

[Text] Yesterday's session of the the PLO Central Council began after a quorum was secured for President Yasir 'Arafat to speak about the circumstances surrounding the Gaza-Jericho accord signed last month in Washington.

Next to address the council were PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, and Fatah Central Committee member Ahmad Quray', known as Abu-al-'Ala', both of whom played a crucial role in the secret Oslo talks leading up to the accord.

In the ensuing debate, Talab al-Sani', an Arab member in the Israeli Knesset, and Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, lent their support for the accord. They also urged the entire Palestinian community to rally behind the accord as a first step toward recovering full and legitimate national rights.

Other speakers in yesterday's session included PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and Fatah Central Committee member Hakam Bal'awi.

The session showed a generally favorable slant toward the self- rule accord. However, the atmosphere is thought likely to change somewhat when certain members air their reservations this morning.

Al-Khatib on Proceedings

JN1110170293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Interview with Palestinian delegate Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib in Tunis by correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi, from the "With the Evening Events" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian side currently in Tunis, good evening.

[Al-Khatib] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Ghassan al-Khatib, the PLO Central Council resumed its work today. What is the attitude of council members after they heard the PLO leadership's remarks and analysis of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement?

[Al-Khatib] The council began its work yesterday; 82 out of 107 members attended. Several Palestinian delegation members and some Palestinian political cadres in the territories also attended. In last night's and this morning's sessions, the council listened to speeches by some prominent Palestinian leaders on the agreement. These speeches discussed three issues: First, the position on the agreement; second, the tasks in the coming phase, that is, the phase in which authority will be assumed and how to handle this phase; third, the formation of a Palestinian national authority to manage affairs in the territories from which the Israeli occupation will withdraw, and also the follow-up and supervision of the remainder of negotiations.

So far, it seems that most speakers have supported this agreement, despite several reservations about some aspects. There was much cautioning about the seriousness of the coming phase and the need for the Palestinian side to enjoy much responsibility and democracy in running the affairs of the coming phase, and also to care for the construction process by establishing the appropriate institutions and appointing appropriate and qualified persons to assume the specific responsibilities in these institutions.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Ghassan, have the names of the members of the four negotiating committees, which will begin work in Tabah and Cairo, on Wednesday, been discussed?

[Al-Khatib] No. Discussing and appointing members of these negotiating delegations are not among the powers of the PLO Central Council. This is because this council is a legislative, and not an executive, council. Appointing members for these delegations is the duty of the PLO

Executive Committee, which is currently holding deliberations to prepare an appropriate namelist for these delegations. Thus far, there has been no decision on specific namelists. This, however, is expected to take place either tonight or tomorrow.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Ghassan, there are conflicting reports about the Palestinian personality that will head the higher liaison committee. What is the truth about this?

[Al-Khatib] In fact, there has thus far been no final agreement on any names. However, rumors and speculations say that brother Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] will probably head this committee.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, thank you very much.

[Al-Khatib] You are welcome.

'Arafat Hails Central Council Vote

LD1210073593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] At a late hour yesterday evening, the PLO Central Council concluded its proceedings by endorsing the agreement signed between the PLO and Israel on Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, and approving the creation of a Palestinian national authority to supervise self-rule throughout the transitional period.

The Palestinian-Israeli agreement was endorsed by 63 votes for, eight against, and nine abstentions. The creation of a Palestinian national authority was approved by 68 for, three against, and one abstention.

The secretary general of the Palestine National Council (PNC), which is the Palestinian parliament abroad, pointed out, when this result was announced to the press in the presence of President Yasir 'Arafat, that President 'Arafat is the one who will head the Palestinian national authority which will be formed from personalities from the occupied territories and others from the PLO Executive Committee, and this authority will be answerable to the Palestinian executive authority.

The PNC speaker said that the PLO Executive Committee will announce the formation of the Palestinian national authority after a meeting scheduled for today.

President Yasir 'Arafat expressed his satisfaction over the Central Council's approval of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on self-rule in the occupied territories by a large majority. He told journalists that these results are sufficient for him, and represent a step on the road leading to the creation of the Palestinian state.

He pointed out that he expected 59 votes in favor of endorsing [the agreement], and described the discussions as being deep, fruitful, and constructive.

President Yasir 'Arafat ruled out the possibility of inviting the PNC to convene.

26 PLO Council Members Reject Israel Accord

JN0810155893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] In Amman, 26 out of 100 members of the PLO Central Council have issued a statement saying that the PLO Central Council is not authorized to ratify the Israeli-PLO agreement.

The statement said that calling a meeting of the PLO Central Council after signing the agreement and document of recognition is aimed at providing a cover for this illegitimate move.

The 26 members of the PLO Central Council also declared their rejection of the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the so-called document of mutual recognition. They said that what has been signed is not binding for the Palestinian people and the PLO, since it departs from the decisions of Palestinian legitimacy and the national constants.

PFLP, DFLP: Tunis Meeting 'Illegitimate'

JN1010073993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] The unified command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has asserted that calling a PLO Central Council meeting today in Tunis is an illegitimate move. This is because the council is not authorized to examine the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which infringes upon the foundations of the PLO and violates its charter and programs, as well as the decisions of its National Council.

In a statement issued following an expanded meeting under the secretaries general of the two fronts and circulated yesterday, the unified command said that the Palestinian people alone have the right to decide upon fateful issues, through a national referendum in the homeland and the diaspora.

The unified command said calling a meeting now seeks only to provide a cover of legitimacy to the agreement. The unified command reiterated its previous decision to boycott the Tunis meeting and decided to continue to study joint steps, in cooperation with all nationalist forces and figures, to put an end to this disregard that destroyed the PLO's institutions.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and chairman of the PLO Central Council, yesterday announced that he will not take part in the council's meetings due to open in Tunis today to endorse the Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

In a statement published by the Jordanian newspaper AL-RA'Y yesterday, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said he will not attend these meetings.

The newspaper also cited members of the PLO Central Council in Amman as saying they will not attend the Tunis meetings. In a statement in Amman on 8 October,

26 members of the council said the PLO Central Council is not authorized to ratify the agreement. They renewed their rejection of the agreement.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, member of the Fatah Central Council, has acknowledged an increase in the Palestinian opposition to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. In statements yesterday, he said the PLO Central Council will discuss today the next stage and the formation of committees agreed on between 'Arafat and Rabin, in addition to the makeup of the Palestinian delegation that will take part in the forthcoming bilateral negotiations in Washington.

For his part, Taysir Qub'ah, deputy speaker of the PNC, has called on the PLO Central Council members, who will meet in Tunis today, not to endorse the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

In a statement yesterday, Qub'ah said: In my capacity as deputy PNC speaker and chairman of the PLO Central Council session, I call on the council members to reject the endorsement of mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel and the Gaza-Jericho accord.

He said the agreement liquidates the Palestine question and clearly violates the Palestinian national charter and the PLO's basic system and the decisions of its national councils.

The Palestinian official added: If the PLO Central Council endorses the agreement and mutual recognition, then I shall declare my withdrawal from this body. However, I will retain my legitimate right as the elected PNC deputy speaker.

'Arafat Interviewed on Peace Process

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[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Luc Lemonnier, Annette Ardisson, and LE FIGARO correspondent Claude Loriot, at PLO headquarters in Tunis on 7 October; 'Arafat's replies in Arabic with superimposed French translation—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ardisson] Good evening Mr. Chairman. Thank you for receiving us in your office in Tunis. On Wednesday [6 October] you were in Cairo for a first working meeting with Mr. Rabin. The meeting seemed rather cold at first. How did things work out, on the human plane, between you, once the cameras and photographers had gone?

['Arafat] As I told you, the meeting was excellent and positive. It was a meeting during which we reached agreements on a number of subjects. [passage omitted]

[Loriot] Mr. Chairman, to hear Mr. Rabin, he, the Israeli, was the one who took the initiative for this meeting with you in Cairo. So one must wonder whether the Palestinians were ready for this meeting. Were the Palestinians rushed?

['Arafat] The Palestinians were certainly ready and were expecting such a meeting soon. [passage omitted]

[Ardisson] Do you want to move fast?

['Arafat] We do, but all the conditions for success must be there.

[Lemonnier] Mr. Chairman, did you get guarantees on the most sensitive points, namely the deportees, the prisoners, or the raising of the blockade on East Jerusalem?

['Arafat] There are certainly urgent questions which will be debated immediately in this brief period of time. And there are questions which have to wait, but which will have to be examined during the next three years, namely the settlements, Jerusalem, the borders, and others.

[Ardisson] And which do you think is the most difficult?

['Arafat] If there is a real and sincere desire, nothing is difficult. As they say in English, if there is a will there is a way [last nine words in English].

[Ardisson] On 10 October, in other words very, very soon, you have a meeting of your National [as heard] Council. Are you sure of yourself, sure of your majority?

['Arafat] I hope so. Our democracy is perhaps difficult, but we are proud of it.

[Loriot] Indeed, Mr. Chairman, in Damascus and elsewhere there are Palestinian groups who think that Palestinian democracy has suffered badly recently. In particular, they think that the decision taken by your executive committee, that's to say, the government, to accept the Washington and Oslo agreements, was somewhat hasty, and they are afraid that a similar sleight of hand, or magic trick, might happen during the Central Council. So hasn't Palestinian democracy suffered?

['Arafat] What does hasty mean? It was after meetings that lasted more than a week that we took the decision. Where could there have been interference in our affairs? Second, if you are talking about groups, if these are Palestinian groups, they are welcome, but if they are groups that get their orders from Iran or from various Arab states, they have nothing to do with the Palestinian people. Let those who are unhappy say so.

There is no exclusivity. Everyone can express their opinions. As Voltaire said, I may not agree with you, but I am ready to fight for your freedom of opinion. So we will not allow Arab or other interference. As for Palestinian opinions and thoughts, they are welcome, even if they go against ours. That is democracy. Otherwise, it would be interference in our internal affairs, and that is something we will not allow.

[Ardisson] Well, indeed, where is the dividing line between Palestinian opinions, and those which claim to represent Palestinian interests, but which come from outside. What are you criteria?

[Arafat] When an organization or a group is financed by Iran, or when a Palestinian group gets its orders not from Palestinian circles, but from Arab parties, it is not a Palestinian group. Nevertheless, we are ready for all opinions, but everyone must know how to approach Palestinian democracy, and we will not allow anyone to take this democracy lightly. This democracy is sacrosanct, and it is what has protected the Palestinians on their march throughout the difficult ups and downs we have experienced over 27 years.

[Lemonnier] Mr. Chairman: How are things going to take place in the occupied territories and with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], in particular? Is your police force, namely the 30,000 Palestinian policemen who will be in place in the occupied territories, not going to be in a situation comparable to the South Lebanese Army in South Lebanon, that is to say between you and the Israelis who will be in the periphery of the occupied territories?

[Arafat] How does the French police force carry out its duty vis-a-vis the French citizens? [passage omitted] The Palestinian police force will carry out its duty vis-a-vis the Palestinian citizens in the same way.

[Ardisson] There are countries where things are not going very well. I have in mind the Algerian example.

[Arafat] I pray you not to ask me for comments upon this. I am only talking about my country. This issue [Algeria] concerns my brothers in Algeria and others.

[Ardisson] So, as far as you are concerned in your own country, how do you define yourself vis-a-vis those who brandish Islam—I recall that you are a Muslim—who do so to reject any agreement or talks or compromise?

[Arafat] I am a Muslim, and I am proud of it. No one can claim that he is more Muslim than me. I respect all opinions be they socialist, capitalist, religious, democratic. We have all these opinions among our Palestinian people, and they are all welcome as long as they come from our people. I am proud of being a practicing Muslim.

[Ardisson] Do you not fear any anarchy in the Gaza strip?

[Arafat] Strange! Why do you make such predictions? Do you wish to see unrest in Gaza? Why do you insist on the existence of anarchy? Are we second class people? I think that the Palestinian people have got the highest rate of literacy and education. Or would democracy be your own monopoly?

[Ardisson] We have reviewed the political difficulties. Let us have a look now at the future, the economic one in particular, since you have told us that it would be part of the issues to be negotiated.

[Loriot] Mr. Chairman: I have seen in some parts of the West Bank or Gaza some of your compatriots who have stopped paying their phone or electricity bills because the Palestinians are going to take over and as we say in French, things will be free of charge tomorrow. So, what is your answer to these people? Do you promise them an Eldorado? Or do you promise them more difficulties, austerity, tears if not blood, and efforts?

[Arafat] There is no end to economic problems. It must be clear that we are taking a Palestinian state and a land whose entire economic institutions have been destroyed by the Israeli occupation. The Israeli occupation has destroyed all the Palestinian people's infrastructures, not only the economic one. We will be starting from zero. It is not just the responsibility of the Palestinians, it is the responsibility of the whole international community which for many years has been content to watch over the destruction of the Palestinian people, of its educational, health, social institutions, its universities, its hospitals, its schools, its associations; the whole of its infrastructure, in fact. Will we find aid among our friends and brothers throughout the world since we are facing a challenge? Either it will be like another starving Somalia—especially since the Gaza Strip has been suffering from real famine for years without donations going to the Gaza Strip—or else we will be faced with a new economic dragon which will be born in the Middle East just like in Singapore, for example. Either like Somalia or like Singapore—that, in fact, is the challenge.

[Ardisson] Singapore on its own or Singapore in an economic grouping?

[Arafat] We would like it to be within an economic community in the region.

[Ardisson] With whom?

[Arafat] With all the countries of the region—a new Marshall Plan, but not a Marshall Plan once we have become economically a new Singapore.

[Lemonnier] In fact, some figures have been put forward—it is being said that about $4 billion are needed to get the process going. Whom are you counting on? On Egypt, the West, the United States, Japan, the countries of the Gulf? Do you not fear that all the money which is going to eastern Europe at the moment, to Moscow, represents that much less money for you?

[Arafat] Up to now we have collected $228 million. During the meeting of donor countries which was held at the invitation of President Clinton—and we thank him for this moreover—certain donor countries were not equal to the responsibilities. Certain donor countries, some of those present, gave nothing and others gave insignificant sums. We hope that all our friends and brothers throughout the world will help this new-born infant. Otherwise, the peace process cannot continue.

[Ardisson] Who has disappointed you most, Mr. Arafat?

[Arafat] I do not want to cite the name, I do not want to cite the name. Thank you to those who have given. We would like those who have not paid to give, as stability in the Middle East is not a simple Palestinian demand. It is a Palestinian demand as is peace, but it is a Palestinian, Israeli, and international demand. If this was not so

there would be anarchy throughout the region with all that this may bring in terms of dangerous consequences for all.

[Ardisson] On the second part of the question, concerning the aid which the West may give—the Western states have been very frightened in recent days over what has happened in Moscow. Do you not fear, as Luc Lemonnier asked you, that given the economic crisis affecting everyone, priority might be given to that region of the world and not to the Middle East?

['Arafat] Ask them; ask them the question: Which is the most important economically speaking? Do not forget that the Middle East contains the greatest oil reserves in the world and that region has a strategic position. That is what you have with the Middle East, that is what you have with the Middle East. You have to know what that means.

[Ardisson] And in the East there are nuclear warheads?

['Arafat] Yes, but both are important. Do not forget that during the Cold War, the hottest spot was in the Middle East. And how much we suffered because of this Cold War. We paid it a very heavy tribute.

[Loriot] Mr. Chairman, among the countries which have promised you help, there were the Gulf countries, countries with whom you have had difficulties since the Gulf War, when in a way they used sanctions and punished the Palestinians for their devotion to Saddam Husayn. Do you think that things are getting back to normal, if I can put it like that, and that countries like Saudi Arabia, or like Kuwait, are among the generous donors, or are they still keeping the purse strings closed?

['Arafat] What we all have to understand is this: People do not live in the past, they live for the future.

[Ardisson] So even that page has been turned?

['Arafat] As far as we are concerned, yes. We turned it in the interest of our people.

[Ardisson] And as far as others are concerned? That was my question.

['Arafat] Then it is up to them to reply.

[Ardisson] Mr. Chairman, staying with economic aid, in Madrid the Americans and the Israelis did not want Europe to be really involved. But when it comes to asking for economic aid, or more precisely, when it comes to sharing economic aid, it is asked for a lot. So do you think that the Europeans will be able to get back their place in the peace process, and not just be allowed to hang on as bankers?

['Arafat] We have always asked for there to be an active European presence and role in the Middle East. And it is not by chance that the steering committee set up in Washington, the donors' committee, was a bipolar one, with the United States on the one hand, and Europe on the other, and this because of the active role of Europe in this area, and not only on the economic level, incidentally. We know that the Europeans were the most generous at the Washington meeting.

[Lemonnier] Yes, indeed, you are going to Paris soon. What are you going to say to President Mitterrand?

['Arafat] Lots of things. And I am sure that he is a man of principle, a statesman of great class, who has a good understanding, a detailed understanding of the problems of the Near East, and I expect a lot from him. I am sure that he will be able to do a lot in this direction. He has adopted memorable positions, which stay in our mind. They are the positions of President Mitterrand, of the French people and of the French Government.

[Ardisson] Do you already have a date for your trip to Paris?

['Arafat] I think about 21-22 [October].

[Ardisson] Let's go back to your meeting with Mr. Rabin and the remaining difficulties. How do you approach the problem of the refugees?

['Arafat] As far as the old ones are concerned—or rather, the new refugees—they should return during the interim period. As for the old refugees, their cases will be examined when the final status of Jerusalem and other questions are examined. [passage omitted]

[Ardisson] When will you establish yourself in Jericho? And will you really establish yourself there with the whole of your headquarters? In other words, will the PLO move out of Tunis?

['Arafat] Does any leader move by himself? Of course, he goes with his team. Of course, I will go with my team.

[Ardisson] So you will be leaving Tunis?

['Arafat] That has been agreed. And I will not forget the hospitality of the Tunisian people. So I thank Tunisia, its president, its government, and its people.

[Ardisson] You have not replied as to the when. You have replied yes; but when? What is the timeframe?

['Arafat] At the beginning of next year.

[Loriot] It was noticed in Cairo on Wednesday that you were surrounded for the main part, almost exclusively, by delegates from the occupied territories. Did you want to show them that you were close to them, at least as close to them as you were to the people in Tunis? One cannot help wondering whether, when you are going to return to Jericho, when you get to Jericho, there will be a fight over posts, for jobs, between the Palestinians from outside, especially from Tunis, and the Palestinians from inside? That has happened in almost all revolutions, so why should the Palestinian revolution manage to avoid such difficulties and clashes?

['Arafat] Your questions are strange. You only see the dark side of things, and I see the bright side. That is the

difference between you and me. I think [the presence of] the delegation from inside which was with me is the best response to what you said. There is no difference between inside and outside. We are one and the same people. Those in exile, in Chile, in the United States, or those in Jerusalem, or Gaza, or Jericho. We are one and the same people.

[Loriot] But you admit that this kind of problem has arisen with other revolutions? So you are better than others as far as this is concerned?

['Arafat] That is not what I mean. I think you have seen the popular demonstrations saying PLO, and you have seen Yasir 'Arafat's portrait waved?

[Lemonnier] Mr. Chairman, what is the future of the PLO? Is it still a liberation movement or are you changing yourselves into something else?

['Arafat] The PLO is the identity of the Palestinian people both inside and outside, and it will remain so both inside and outside.

[Lemonnier] This is a bit personal: You are 64, you have been driven out of several Arab countries, you have escaped many attacks, you recently received a death threat after shaking hands with Yitzhaq Rabin. What makes you go on? Are you still an active head of the Palestinians for the future?

['Arafat] That is Jerusalem, a holy land, it is a question of the cause of the holy land: All sacrifices for this cause are bearable. It is the land of the Gospels, the Torah, the Koran.

[Ardisson] What can its status be then as it is a holy land for everyone?

['Arafat] As it is a place for the revelation of the three major religions, the problem will be resolved—for it is the land of peace, the land of love, the land of divine messages. Consequently, we will find a solution for this.

[Loriot] Your difficult experiment begins with Gaza and Jericho: Are you now convinced that you are going to obtain autonomy in the occupied territories as a whole, that is in the West Bank as a whole? Is your experiment viable if it does not lead to that?

['Arafat] First, there will not be autonomy in Gaza and Jericho. In Gaza and Jericho, there will be a national Palestinian authority; in the remainder of the territories, there will be temporary autonomy for a given period. This is so as to achieve the establishment of an independent Palestinian state which is united in confederation with Jordan in accordance with the free choice of the two brotherly countries: That is the decision of our PNC [Palestine National Council], and we are bound by its decisions.

[Loriot] But do you think the Israelis are ready to play the game of autonomy in the occupied territories as a whole?

['Arafat] The rules of the game apply to the whole of the agreement and not just the matter of autonomy. The agreement is clear and it embodies the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people with all its consequences, as well as international legitimacy and its decisions.

[Ardisson] Mr. Chairman, suppose I asked you to tell us your dream?

['Arafat] I would dream of meeting you soon in Jerusalem.

[Ardisson] Thank you, Mr. Arafat.

PLO's Qaddumi on Specifics of Accord With Israel

PM0810114693 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 4-10 Oct 93 pp 22-26

[Interview with PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi by Zaki Shihab; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shihab] What changed between your first position rejecting the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and your later call to make it a success?

[Qaddumi] Nothing has changed so far in this position, because the comments I made still stand. What happened is that the agreement took place, so a new situation emerged. This situation was discussed in detail inside the Arab League. We explained to our brothers in the Arab states the Arab and international conditions which led to this situation. Starvation in the occupied territories and the continuation of the isolation and blockade of Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem, the financial blockade imposed... all these factors—and the harshest of them all is that we had to deprive the martyr's families of their salaries—prepared the atmosphere for following the road of the agreement with Israel and signing with it.

[Shihab] Does the agreement contain sufficient guarantees, or were there guarantees outside it which prompted you to accept it?

[Qaddumi] Not at all. I did not accept this agreement. I explained in detail, saying that Arab conditions were one of the main reasons. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] You say that you do not accept the agreement. But you are an integral part of the PLO and its structure. What does your nonacceptance of it mean at the Palestinian level, and how far could you go in your opposition?

[Qaddumi] Opposing many of the agreement's stipulations means that I should take the responsibility for eliminating these shortcomings, which are numerous and must be eliminated.

[Shihab] What are these shortcomings?

[Qaddumi] These stipulations are general, which means that the negotiations could take months and perhaps years, as happened with regard to the negotiations over Tabah [in Egypt]. There is a basis for a settlement, and

some principles have disappeared. They include the land for peace principle, which is a key principle. We included this in the Arab League's statement. Add to this that the words "occupied territory" were not mentioned. And the questions to be discussed in the end are the refugee, security, and border issues. The border issue is a general phrase, since the phrase "withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip" should have been mentioned. These phrases will cause Israel to engage in other negotiations with us.

Then comes the economic appendixes question and our link with Israel, when there is no linkage with the neighboring Arab states. At the political level we are committed to the Palestine National Council resolution concerning relations with Jordan, which calls for a confederation. We are also committed to Arab coordination, as we said in the past that any progress on any of the tracks should help to achieve progress on the other tracks, and that progress on the Palestinian track is the basis. Thus this must be explained in detail to our Arab brothers in order to exchange views over it, especially as Jordan is our partner in the negotiations. We entered the the negotiations with it under one umbrella. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] The agreement showed that the Palestinian-Israeli relationship will be strong enough—at least in the stipulations—to adversely affect the future of Palestinian-Jordanian relations. What is the status of the PLO-Jordan relationship in the light of Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Amman?

[Qaddumi] Actually that is one of the points I raised in relation to this agreement. It is not visits which establish such relations. I went to Jordan because of this matter and spoke with His Excellency Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. I told him that the aim of my visit was to clarify this matter. I told him I am not interested in the establishment of a federation, a confederation, or anything similar. What I am interested in is safeguarding the common interests of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples, indeed, the people on both banks. Thus, action must be taken to bring about the main linkage and correct coordination with Jordan.

[Shihab] Do you not believe that this talk has come rather late, especially after Shim'on Peres' statements that a Palestinian-Israeli-Jordanian triangle will be the plan for the next stage?

[Qaddumi] It is not too late to talk with Jordan. It is the right time. It does not mean that we have lost contact with our brothers. It is unsound to say that the agreement has been written and it is all over. There are realities which will emerge on the ground and will be completely different from what is said in official statements here and there.

[Shihab] What are these realities?

[Qaddumi] The establishment of a relationship in a material way with Jordan. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] Do you expect an Israeli-Syrian agreement to be reached soon after President Hafiz al-Asad described Israel as the only winner from the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Qaddumi] I cannot speculate on anything like that. We participated in the Madrid conference two years ago with a view to achieving a just and lasting peace, which is necessary. Syrian insistence on Israel's withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon is necessary, regardless of the various comments. We must help to achieve these aims which fraternal Arab states like Syria and Lebanon are seeking to achieve. Our issue with Israel did not end with our signing of the phased agreement.

[Shihab] How much understanding of the Palestinian position did President Hafiz al-Asad express during your meeting with him?

[Qaddumi] Actually the meeting lasted for a long time and discussions were clear and frank. It was a warm meeting. I felt that President Hafiz al-Asad wanted to remove any bad spots in our relations with Syria. He expressed responsiveness to what we raised.

[Shihab] In what area did that responsiveness emerge?

[Qaddumi] When I went to Damascus I did not know about the plan which was said to have been signed on 19 August. My visit to Damascus took place a few days later. Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] was supposed to visit Damascus, but [Kuwaiti Amir] Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad's visit to Damascus caused him to change his program, especially after his call to hold a meeting for the PLO Executive Committee in Tunis. These reasons hampered Brother Abu-'Ammar's visit to Damascus. We ministers agreed to meet in Beirut a few days later. Anyhow, what I wanted to say is that conditions were very adequate. The Syrian brothers told us: We have some comments to make, and there are negative things and positive things. And we will offer our comments. President al-Asad told us clearly and openly that the Palestinian people and their central institutions are responsible for taking this decision. More precisely, President al-Asad did not express his support of this agreement, nor did he speak about his opposition to it. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] As a founder of Fatah, do you believe that signing the agreement will give Hamas and the other factions opposed to the agreement the opportunity to inherit Fatah or part of it, and maybe the position of the PLO?

[Qaddumi] I believe that signing this agreement cannot lead to such results immediately. If we study the surrounding conditions, if we study the agreement, and if we study the numerous shortcomings it contains, a long struggle and tireless efforts must be exerted to classify matters inside the occupied Palestinian territories, especially as we do not trust Israel's intentions. The problem is not who inherits what. We are Palestinians and respect one another. And no Palestinian should ever think about turning the conflict between us and the Israeli occupation into a conflict among ourselves. Welcome to Hamas and a

thousand Hamas if we manage to liberate the land. For these reasons, I said a thorny road is ahead of us. We might not achieve anything. Regrettably, this agreement was discussed hastily. If we had taken our time, it would have been easier, and we would have been able to contact all Palestinian and Arab circles to eliminate many of the suspicions associated with this agreement. Thus, we should keep away from those concepts; they are concepts which our enemies want to put in our mouths. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] What is the political, security, and economic umbrella which the Palestinians believe is necessary to protect the agreement?

[Qaddumi] The agreement has no guarantees. There are witnesses: the United States and Russia. And we should not forget that the United States pushed hard to have the declaration of principles signed quickly. It also pushed hard to have Israel recognized, whatever the price. And it was these two [declaration of principles and recognition] which it had opposed because of their stipulations. We are not against peace. We are seeking a political settlement. I stood in the National Council and told the oppositionist brothers: Yes to the international peace conference. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] Did you at the moment [when the agreement was signed] wish to join those opposed to the agreement?

[Qaddumi] I will not join those opposed to the agreement. The matter is not like that. I pointed to the shortcomings in the agreement, and I am determined to fight against them. If there are positive aspects like the withdrawal question, they have to be developed. But I will continue to voice reservations and insist that the refugee issue be discussed right now. It should not be deferred. And instead of saying "borders," general phrases should be explained, and the PLO must stay, because there are attempts to eliminate it. Our people need a period of time in order to recover their strength.

[Shihab] What is the justification for the PLO's continuation, when its leaders are going to become ministers in a self-administration government?

[Qaddumi] If the PLO turns into a state, it will mean foreign representation. In the signed agreement they say that Israel is responsible for defense and foreign affairs—which could lead to saying that we would not have foreign representation. Thus, the PLO must continue to look after the refugee issue until all issues are finally settled in a later stage.

[Shihab] And what about the allocation of posts?

[Qaddumi] Self-rule does not provide for ministries. And may God help those who want to hold a post in this difficult and arduous stage.

[Shihab] Have the factions opposed to the agreement made contacts with you to urge you to crystallize a position?

[Qaddumi] They are in constant contact with me.

[Shihab] What is the aim of that?

[Qaddumi] They are my partners, and I am eager to be in touch with them. The aim is first to acquaint them with details of and the truth about the situation. Second, to prevent bloody conflicts if some of the simple people among popular grass roots think about staging them. Actually, our brothers in the other factions have been very wise. They are entitled to express opposition and to call for correct internal building, and I will support them in that.

[Shihab] But the opposition of some of them to the agreement reached the point of threatening to kill 'Arafat.

[Qaddumi] When I inquired about that, I did not receive the same reply. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] What about the closure of the PLO office in Baghdad?

[Qaddumi] The PLO's offices in Baghdad have not been closed, and they [the Iraqis] respected our opinions.

[Shihab] It seems that some PLO institutions have begun to prepare to move to Gaza and Jericho. What role awaits you there, and what is your position in these institutions?

[Qaddumi] Regrettably, many people believe that all PLO institutions are going to move to the occupied territories, forgetting that the PLO has offices and foreign representation and that Israel will not accept—in accordance with this agreement—that the PLO be run from inside. Some PLO institutions will remain abroad, especially the Political Department and foreign relations, that is the foreign ministry with all its offices. Thus, talking about this matter conflicts with reality.

[Shihab] What is the future of the PLO's offices in the world, especially as some circles are talking about a secret memorandum aimed at closing most of them?

[Qaddumi] Maybe there are attempts to close these offices. I am fully aware of these attempts. Because Mr. Peres does not want foreign representation for the PLO. And in my view, he recognized the PLO as a representative for the Palestinian people merely to negotiate. This is another question of which we must be aware in our fight against the shortcomings.

I fear that the promises offered to us might be similar to the promises offered to Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin. I doubt that they will fulfill these promises. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] What truth is there in the reports of the existence of secret appendixes to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Qaddumi] I heard that there are secret appendixes, but brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] denied this, and I trust him, although the rumor has made me very anxious to work for the PLO existence. And I together with my brothers will struggle for the PLO's existence, because it

means the existence of the Palestinian people's independent national identity until the full Israeli withdrawal and the resolution of the refugee, Jerusalem, and settlement issues.

Abu-Mazin Praises Gulf Stance on Israel Accord

JN0810190193 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 3 Oct P 22

[By Muhammad al-'Alawi]

[Text] Rabat—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, known as Abu-Mazin, has commended the supportive stand of the Gulf states toward the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. This, he said, speaks for the Gulf states' pan-Arab outlook and their ongoing support for the Palestinian cause.

In exclusive statements to AL-ITTIHAD in Rabat, Abu-Mazin said he hoped the Palestinian-Israeli accord will go a long way toward improving Palestinian-Gulf ties in particular and other Palestinian-Arab relations in general. Abu-Mazin would not comment on reports that 'Arafat may visit the Gulf states. He did not know of any invitation for 'Arafat to visit the Gulf. Abu-Mazin emphasized that the PLO was keen to improve and untangle PLO ties with the Gulf states and remove the blemishes of the past. The PLO, he said, looks forward to further Gulf support for the Palestinian cause and the nascent Palestinian entity.

Abu-Mazin noted that, with the exception of Libya, none of the Arabs states has come out against the Palestinian-Israeli accord. The PLO, he added, will launch a diplomatic offensive to spell out and argue the case for the Palestinian-Israeli accord so that Libya may understand the Palestinian stand and then possibly change its position. Abu-Mazin said that when he conferred with King Hasan of Morocco, the two looked into the future implications of the Palestinian-Israeli accord. The Moroccan king, according to Abu-Mazin, showed every readiness to help make a go of the Palestinian experiment.

There is no reason why there cannot be normal political ties between the PLO and the United States, Abu-Mazin stressed. He indicated that the differences with the United States had centered on Washington's refusal to recognize the PLO and Palestinian rights. The erstwhile enmity between the United States and the PLO, he observed, was not ideologically-based. The political enmity with the United States is no more, Abu-Mazin stated.

As to when 'Arafat will move to Jericho, Abu-Mazin said this will take place once the Israelis complete their pullout from Gaza and Jericho. He indicated that the accord provides for the passage of one month before it comes into effect. The Israeli withdrawal will be completed within four months at the latest, he said.

Asked to comment on Hafiz al-Asad's statement that the PLO-Israel accord has undermined the overall Arab position, Abu-Mazin said he was not certain of the accuracy of the remarks attributed to the Syrian president. Abu-Mazin does not think the Palestinian-Israeli accord has had the effect of undermining the overall Arab position. The PLO, he emphasized, has not reneged on a commitment to a comprehensive Arab settlement.

A solution of the Palestinian issue should help other Arab tracks reach a solution. Compared to the other Arab fronts, the Palestinian issue is the toughest, Abu-Mazin emphasized. If a solution on the Palestinian track were to be put off, it might end up condemned to neglect. But if the Palestinian issue is tackled first, that should lay the groundwork for an overall settlement to the Arab-Israeli dispute. He said the accord has made no change in Palestinian-Jordanian relations. He noted that joint committees have been formed with Jordan to coordinate moves during the transitional period. A committee is addressing the question of a confederation relationship, Abu-Mazin said.

Abu-Mazin indicated that the PLO remains committed to the Jordanian-Palestinian confederation as an option endorsed by the Palestine National council 10 years ago. As far as the PLO is concerned, Abu-Mazin added, this option is still on. For the PLO, this option is not a political matter; it is more of a strategic issue for both the Palestinians and Jordanians.

Abu-Mazin said he views some intra-Palestinian differences as a healthy phenomenon. We are duty bound to respect all strains of thought over the recent accord with Israel. It is important to keep these differences within a democratic context. He emphasized that all the Palestinian factions opposed to the accord appreciate and understand this fact.

Abu-Mazin said there are Palestinian efforts under way to set up Palestinian fence-mending get-togethers to arrive at a united stand on the agreement and to rationalize opposition. Abu-Mazin said the sessions are most likely to be convened in Sanaa. He emphasized the centrality of global support for building the economic infrastructure for the nascent Palestinian entity. The occupation that began in 1967, he said, has taken a heavy toll on many facilities and blocked the building of many more. The Untied States and a number of Arab states have made pledges of support for the PLO to help run the new administration and breath life into the Palestinian economy. He predicted the emergence of countless problems in the event the PLO failed to build and rehabilitate the national economy. Abu-Mazin said no one should expect the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli accord to be trouble-free. This agreement has not ironed out all the problems. Certain excesses and violations may arise here and there on both sides, but this should not discourage either the Palestinians or the Israelis from following through with the accord.

Abu-Mazin indicated that the two sides will, at their earliest convenience, seek to sort out pending issues. These, he observed, include Jerusalem, the refugees, Jewish settlements, and boundaries. The agreement,

noted Abu-Mazin, calls for the city's population to join the balloting. He saw in this an indication that the status of Jerusalem will remain fluid until a final settlement is worked out. Abu-Mazin said the decision to annex Jerusalem to Israel is now dubious, since it will be on the agenda of the final stage negotiations.

On the question of the Jewish settlements, Abu-Mazin emphasized that the PLO continues to adhere to its position; namely to categorically refuse for any settlement to remain on territory occupied in 1967. On the refugees, he said the PLO still adheres to its position that UN Resolution 194 be honored.

Abu-Mazin said the Palestinian-Israeli accord has not solved the Middle East problem. He observed that much remains to be done on the Israel-Syria and the Israel-Lebanon tracks, and, therefore, the Arab states shouldn't be in any rush to normalize ties with Israel.

PFLP Leader Criticizes Gaza-Jericho Accord

AU0810112293 Hamburg DIE ZEIT in German 8 Oct 93 p 10

[Interview with Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) leader George Habash, by Fredy Gsteiger; place and date not given: "'Arafat is Lying"]

[Text] [Gsteiger] Why has 'Arafat agreed to a compromise, which you think is abominable?

[Habash] 'Arafat is getting on in years. He is almost 64. He has been selfishly interested in achieving some success, however small—a sort of partial rule over a few patches of land. In this effort he represents the bourgeois, bureaucratic wing of the PLO. We in the Arab-nationalist, democratic wing stick to our principles. They are more important than individuals and offices.

[Gsteiger] Could 'Arafat have achieved more?

[Habash] I admit that since the disintegration of the Soviet Bloc and after the Gulf War, our room for maneuvering has become very small. Yet, 'Arafat should have stuck to our aim of establishing a sovereign state.

[Gsteiger] Yes, but the Gaza/Jericho Agreement is only a first step; maybe there is more to come over the next few years...

[Habash] ...maybe, just maybe! But nowhere in the papers could I find a right to that [a sovereign state] mentioned. 'Arafat is lying if he says that, thanks to his bold action, Jerusalem is soon to become the capital of Palestine. Israel is in a comfortable position now. 'Arafat's Fatah has to keep the peace and quiet in Gaza, and the world seems content. The West will ask, why should we demand that the Israelis get out of the occupied territories completely, if the Palestinians can be immobilized much more easily?

[Gsteiger] So, in your opinion 'Arafat is a traitor?

[Habash] He has abandoned the Palestinian cause.

[Gsteiger] What strategy would you have chosen in his place?

[Habash] The strategy I have agreed upon with him in Tunis—before the Madrid Peace Conference started: to stick to our right to have our own state, the return of all the refugees, the elimination of the Jewish settlements, a complete Israeli withdrawal—this includes Jerusalem.

[Gsteiger] Yet, tens of thousands of your people cheered in Jericho and Gaza when 'Arafat and Rabin shook hands in Washington...

[Habash] A lot of money can buy a lot of cheers. In spite of his lamenting, 'Arafat still has billions put away in secret boxes. Now he uses this money to buy support, while he keeps the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and PLO groups short [of money].

[Gsteiger] What can you and the other organizations opposing the agreement do now?

[Habash] First of all, we must mobilize our people and the Arab governments and coordinate our activities.

[Gsteiger] Does this include the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas Movement and the Islamic Jihad?

[Habash] Yes, all of them. We might have different ideological aims, but we must cooperate tactically. We made a great step forward this week. The armed resistance, intifadah, continues, it is even getting stronger. You will have noticed that quite a bit happened during the last couple of days, especially at the beginning of the week (attack on an Israeli bus, the editor).

[Gsteiger] You think that violence is necessary?

[Habash] We have to use violence against Israel. But, under no circumstances must civil war break out among Palestinians. This would equal the suicide of Palestine.

[Gsteiger] Ahmad Jibril [secretary general of the PFLP General Command] has called for 'Arafat to be killed.

[Habash] Jibril did not say he or his group would kill Abu 'Ammar ('Arafat's PLO name). He says that one day a son, brother, or wife of a martyr would take a weapon and kill the man who so infamously sacrificed our most sacred aim for the abominable Gaza/Jericho agreement.

Islamic Jihad Claims Wadi al-Qit Operation

JN1010094093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] In a statement issued in Amman this morning, the Islamic Jihad Movement-the Palestinian al-Aqsa Battalions, claimed responsibility for yesterday's operation in Wadi al-Qilt, near Jericho, in which at least two Israeli picnickers were killed. The Islamic Jihad stressed that

similar operations would continue as long as the capitulatory agreement between the PLO and Israel continues to exist.

Hamas Statement Calls for Anti-Accord Activities

JN0810202093 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a statement in which it explained that the accord of humiliation and disgrace—the Gaza-Jericho accord—is a Zionist-U.S. scheme to buy time and to push our Palestinian people toward a civil war that the enemies are wagering on.

In its statement, the movement said: We will not permit the enemy to implement its scheme. We will do our best to spare our people the woes of a civil war, which our enemy wishes and seeks. However, we are loudly crying out that our jihad against our enemy and its occupation authorities will continue.

In its statement, the movement called for a number of militant activities. These activities include the following:

—A comprehensive strike on 9 October on the occasion of the beginning of the 59th month of the intifadah.

—A comprehensive strike on 13 October to protest the signing of the accord of humiliation and disgrace.

The movement also called for marches of protest against the Gaza-Jericho agreement and in solidarity with the steadfast deportees in Marj al-Zuhur.

The Islamic Resistance Movement called for considering 21, 22, and 23 October days of intifadah escalation. The days 20-30 October will be days of writing nationalist slogans on walls and raising banners expressing our people's rejection of the accord of humiliation and disgrace.

Editorial Criticizes Israeli Actions in Territories

NC0810131893 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 6 Oct 93 p 9

[Editorial: "On the Threshold of the Coming Stage"]

[Text] The Israeli Government reportedly intends to continue its actions in the occupied territories. Some reports note that such actions, including the pursuit and arrest of wanted people, will be stepped up, using the time before the Palestinian-Israeli agreement goes into effect on 13 October.

The atmosphere of peace—if Israel sincerely and seriously wants to create such an atmosphere—demands that Israel give a good impression to the Palestinians by ending such actions after the signing. What is happening clearly contradicts the spirit of the agreement and the atmosphere of peace. The dreams and hopes for the coming stage have been frustrated in the eyes of the world and to some extent the Arab and Palestinian public as a result of the series of shocks caused by Israeli actions in the past two weeks.

The justifications and explanations given for such actions, which have caused casualties and destruction, particularly in the Gaza Strip, convince no one, because they lack any sense or logic. The effects of what is happening cast a shadow of doubt about the kind of peace Israel is seeking and the extent of its desire to disengage from the Palestinian people in a humane and peaceful manner.

The recent measures and actions have affected various Palestinian sectors, causing various local reactions to them and raising questions among the Palestinians regarding their real purpose.

Events in the occupied territories go beyond the people's expectations of what is supposed to happen following the signing of an agreement. It was said when the agreement was signed that it would end the feelings of hostility and open a new era in which Israel views the Palestinian people as deserving all the rights enjoyed by peoples everywhere, including the right to a sense of security. The days between the signing and the implementation of the agreement ought to provide an idea of the meaning of peace and its atmosphere through the release of the detainees, the return of the deportees, the removal of the barriers, the ending of the closure of the territories, and the granting of general amnesty for the fugitives. But none of this has happened.

Doubtless, the Palestinians, the Arabs, and the entire world are viewing events with surprise. This period should be a time for positive transition in which old concepts change and the ugly face of the occupation will disappear, giving way to coexistence for the benefit of everyone without exception.

DFLP To Host Upcoming Opposition Congress

JN0810134193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, DFLP, in Damascus, by radio correspondent Kamal Tarabayh; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Hawatimah] The meetings [of the 10 Palestinian factions opposed to both the Arab-Israeli peace talks and the Palestinian-Israeli agreement] are being held at the martyr Khalid Nazzal Hall in the al-Yarmuk camp south of the Syrian capital, Damascus, and are hosted by the DFLP.

We met all day yesterday and today, and I believe we will conclude the meetings tomorrow. We have taken the following steps:

First, and unanimously, there is a need to rebuild the national leadership of the intifadah to include all democratic, national, and Islamic forces on the basis of

continuing the intifadah with all forms of struggle. This will also include all forces in the arena. If there is readiness by the opponents within Fatah to join this step, we welcome them, in addition to the Arab Liberation Front and any of the 10 factions in and outside the PLO which are present there.

[Tarabayh] Nayif Hawatimah, are Fatah officials attending these meetings?

[Hawatimah] In the current meetings in the al-Yarmuk camp there are none. However, there is very wide cooperation with several Fatah Central Committee officials and Fatah cadres in the occupied territories and in the diaspora, who are holding a dialogue with us...

[Tarabayh, interrupting] Are there any specific names?

[Hawatimah] Hani al-Hasan, 'Abbas Zaki, Muhammad Jihad, and others. They are expected to participate in the second decision we made; namely, holding popular national conferences and a comprehensive conference in the occupied homeland comprising all factions and personalities who are ready to work accordingly in order to establish a daily militant political leadership for the whole people in the occupied homeland and also in the main gatherings in the diaspora; namely, the camps in Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria; in addition to a unified general national congress which will be held to elect a standing committee to run the Palestinian people's struggle with the aim of encircling and toppling the Rabin- 'Arafat agreement. Our alternative is our people's right to a comprehensive and balanced peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy; namely, Resolution 242, 338, 194, and 237, in a way that would secure this people's right to self-determination, an independent state, and repatriation, in accordance, as I said, with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

At the same time, this unified general national congress will have on its agenda the preparatory work to hold a new Palestine National Council [PNC], democratically elected from inside and outside the territories. These preparatory steps were decided on last night. Tonight, we will continue ... [changes thought] It was also unanimously agreed, with the participation of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]—and this proves that remarks attributed to [Hamas leader] Shaykh Ahmad Yasir are lies—to reject the limited autonomy and any form of participation in organizations or bodies affiliated with the limited autonomy; that is, the executive council and the other executive bodies, and to reject any form of participation in the executive council's elections because the council's task will be to implement the Rabin- 'Arafat agreement and give it a form of legitimacy behind the back of the Palestinian people.

[Tarabayh] How do you evaluate the Israeli decision to release 5,500 Palestinian detainees from Israeli jails? Don't you think that this is a fruit of the PLO-Israeli agreement?

[Hawatimah] If it materializes, it will be the fruit of the struggle of our people over six years of intifadah, 25 years of national work, and 50 years of suffering. The occupation cannot remain forever and its jails will not be eternal. Moreover, this has not been discussed yet. We do not want to create illusions. There is a comprehensive movement in the Israeli jails involving all the Palestinian strugglers and detainees to foil the Rabin-'Arafat game aimed at confining the released prisoners to pro-'Arafat supporters.

[Tarabayh] My last question is: Is there a move to form a new PLO leadership or a Palestinian body to be a parallel or a substitute for the PLO?

[Hawatimah] We clearly say that we do not look for alternatives to the PLO because we are also PLO. We want to rebuild the PLO institutions—the PNC, the PLO Central Council, the Executive Committee—through democratically elected processes. Therefore, the general national congress will discuss the practical means to rebuild the PLO institutions with the participation of a great number of the PNC and Executive Committee members who resigned or suspended their memberships.

Damascus Ten Issue 'Important' Statement

JN0910153993 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1343 GMT 9 Oct 93

["Text" of "important political statement" issued by the 10 Palestinian factions opposed to the peace process in Damascus on 9 October—read by Fadl Shururu, the director general of al-Quds radio]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. An important political statement issued by the 10 Palestinian factions:

The central commands of the 10 Palestinian factions, in the presence of the secretaries general and representatives of the top leaders, held a series of meetings 7-9 October 1993. They discussed the latest political developments related to the Palestine question, and the repercussions of the signing of the treasonous 'Arafat-Rabin agreement, also called the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which has two parts: the declaration of principles and the mutual recognition document. This agreement aims to liquidate the Palestine question.

The conferees also discussed the dangers this agreement poses to the national and pan-Arab fate and to our Arab and Islamic nation. This agreement is a stab in the back of our nation's struggle and sacrifices and a disavowal of the blood of its martyrs.

Stemming from the national and pan-Arab objectives; in light of the study and assessment made by the commands of the 10 factions in the past few days; in view of the discussions held with various national and Islamic factions, currents, and personalities in the occupied homeland and in our people's camps and gatherings in the Arab countries and the diaspora regarding the historic steps and tasks shouldered by our people and their

national, democratic, and Islamic vanguards; and emanating from, and in harmony with, both our people's national and historic rights and their objectives of liberation, repatriation, self-determination, and national independence, the 10 factions have decided to mobilize all their capabilities and resources in order to topple the treasonous 'Arafat-Rabin agreement, and continue the struggle and jihad against the Zionist enemy to achieve all our Palestinian people's objectives.

In light of the profound debate and responsible discussions, the commands of the 10 factions have made a series of decisions and policies. They will adhere to these policies and call for various forms of struggle against the Zionist enemy to topple this agreement. They will also mobilize the widest national coalition of Palestinian national and Islamic groups, factions, and personalities that are opposed to this agreement and committed to both the National Charter and the constant principles of the Palestinian struggle. Among these decisions and policies are:

1. Forming the national and Islamic command of the glorious popular intifadah in Palestine by: calling on all groups and factions that oppose this agreement and adhere to the option of the intifadah to join this command; pooling all efforts, resources, and capabilities to perpetuate, continue, support, and escalate the popular intifadah against the Zionist enemy; continuing the struggle and jihad to achieve our people's objectives; and confronting the pledges made by 'Arafat and his capitulationist team to Rabin and the Zionist entity on halting the intifadah and its activities.

2. The 10 factions will commit all their resources to a mobilization of our masses against the accord and its mechanisms and executive bodies. The idea is to dismantle the accord by deploying all militant means and keeping the confrontation with the Zionist enemy going. The 10 factions reserve the right to sustain the struggle against the forces and authorities of occupation and Jewish settlers wherever they may be found on our occupied territory.

The 10 factions will take a determined stand against all attempts to stir up sedition and infighting and ignite the destructive civil war that looms on the horizon thanks to 'Arafat and his fellow signers of the accord, who have been engaged in an effort to repress nationalist and Islamic forces ranged against the accord, to abort the intifadah, and to suppress strugglers and mujahidin battling occupation.

The 10 factions will confront all these attempts with the might and nationalist enlightenment of the people. The 10 factions will stand vigilant against any measure that tries to impose the accord on our people.

3. The 10 factions hereby declare their boycott of the political and administrative bodies taking charge of implementing the self-administration accord and the Gaza-Jericho agreement. They urge our people and all nationalist and Islamic organizations and figures to boycott these bodies and organize the broadest possible popular drive to alienate, discard, and topple them.

4. The 10 factions hereby declare their boycott of elections for the self-administration council provided for in the accord. They will begin to organize the broadest possible popular mobilization to promote a boycott and abortion of these elections. The 10 factions view these elections as a calculated effort to select an executive council for the self-administration agreement that is being foisted on our Palestinian people. Thus, the elections are illegitimate, null and void, and far from being compatible with the true will of the people—they are designed just to get the agreement passed.

5. The 10 factions view the self-administration's authority being set up in accordance with the treasonous agreement as a hostile repressive force—a tool devoted to serving the Zionist occupation. The 10 factions call on our people to disassociate themselves from, and work toward dismantling and isolating, this authority.

6. The 'Arafat-Rabin agreement is at odds with the will and national rights of our Palestinian people. Our people have voiced their rejection of the agreement. The agreement is not binding and its signers have no legitimacy. Consequently, the 10 factions demand that all Arab, Islamic, and friendly countries and forces stand by the Palestinian people's rebuff of this agreement and move to overthrow it as it is less than binding on our people and unrepresentative of their collective will.

7. The 10 factions hereby declare their boycott of all the institutions led by or associated with 'Arafat and carrying the PLO's signature. The 10 factions will refuse to have any official dialogue with the signers of the agreement or those who have anything to do with its implementation. These people have broken ranks with the will and national and pan-Arab interests of our people.

8. A preparatory committee has been set up to prepare for the convocation of a general national congress. This committee will discuss and develop appropriate formulas for ensuring the continuation of the national Palestinian action. The preparatory committee will act in accordance with the following orientations:

A. A national conference in the occupied homeland will be called for. This conference will be comprised of the nationalist and Islamic movements, factions, trends, and key figures opposed to the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement. A preparatory committee made up of representatives of the forces and key figures will be set up to prepare for this conference. The conference should form a committee for national orientation for our people in the occupied homeland. The conference will select its representatives to the general national congress.

B. Other national and popular conferences in our people's camps and other locations in the diaspora will choose their representatives to the general national congress.

C. The general national congress will be comprised of representatives of the nationalist movements, factions, and key figures rejecting the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement, as well representatives of the national and popular conferences held in the homeland and the diaspora. The congress will work to overthrow the agreement, maintain the unity of our Palestinian people, continue the intifadah, and remove 'Arafat and his team, which signed the agreement of legitimacy. It will approve an adequate formula for the continuation of the national Palestinian action in the next stage.

D. The preparatory committee will work through consultations with all forces and key figures to lay down an appropriate mechanism for the convocation of the general national congress as soon as possible. It will prepare the documents needed by the congress. It will continue to look for political and organizational formulas that safeguard the national Palestinian struggle in the next stage.

Masses of our Palestinian people, children of our Arab and Islamic nation: 'Arafat and his defeatist team continue to promote the accord of submission and treason. They are holding meetings with the enemy leaders and setting up joint committees with them to begin the formation of the tools and executive organs for self-administration. This is the alternative that they have chosen to our people's national option and national and historic rights. They have betrayed all the sacrifices that have been made throughout the various phases of our people's struggle. Seeking to obliterate the PLO's nationalist role in the contemporary history of the Palestinian revolution, 'Arafat and his team have violated all national, pan-Arab, and Islamic principles.

In view of all this, the 10 factions stress their adherence to the PLO Charter and to all our people's rights and nationalist achievements. They will continue to raise the banners of struggle and jihad, which have been abandoned by 'Arafat and his signing team. They will employ all efforts and resources to continue struggle against the Zionist enemy. They affirm that 'Arafat neither represents our people nor the PLO. He is not authorized to speak on their behalf. The 10 factions will cooperate with all nationalist and Islamic forces and key figures opposed to Zionism and occupation. They will pursue a working plan that unifies our people and their energies and resources to defeat this agreement. They will continue struggle for our people's aspirations, represented by liberation, repatriation, self-determination, and full national independence.

[Signed] The 10 Palestinian factions, 9 October 1993

Further on Factions' Plan

NC0810204093 Paris AFP in English 1933 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Damascus, Oct 8 (AFP)—Ten Palestinian organisations opposed to the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord have agreed on the outlines of a plan to scupper the deal in a meeting here, a Palestinian official said Friday [8 October].

He said the organisations, which on Friday went into the second day of the meeting called to co-ordinate their opposition to the deal, had "agreed in large part on the contents of a plan to stop the Israeli-Palestinian accord and to intensify the uprising in the occupied territories."

Nayif Hawatimah, the leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine said the first session of the meeting, on Thursday, had been dominated by intense discussion of ways to scupper the plan.

He told AFP on Thursday that delegates were intent on agreeing a concrete strategy to oppose the agreement and "strip all legitimacy" from Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Delegates also hoped to "announce a unified national front aimed at re-establishing the unity of the PLO and boycotting all the institutions and elections resulting from the autonomous authorities in Gaza and Jericho," a source close to the meeting said.

Apart from the DFLP and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the two biggest factions of the PLO apart from Arafat's Fatah, the meeting is being attended by the Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) and the Islamic Jihad as well as other more minor Palestinian groups.

The Israel-PLO accord, signed last month in Washington, provides for limited Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories, beginning in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho on October 13.

The secretary general of Islamic Jihad, Fathi al-Shiqaqi, called from Tehran for a coalition of radical Palestinian groups to continue their struggle against Israel, Tehran radio said on Thursday.

Al-Shiqaqi, in Tehran for talks on the PLO-Israeli accord accused 'Arafat of "seeking to confront Islamic movements" in the occupied territories.

Envoy Discusses Meeting of Factions in Sanaa

NC0910212493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2024 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Sanaa, 9 Oct (MENA)—Yahya Rabah, the Palestinian ambassador to Yemen, has told Sanaa's MENA correspondent that a meeting of several Palestinian factions will be held there on 25 October. He said the meeting is a significant opportunity for Palestinian opposition groups to attend and explain their views.

Rabah said that the Yemeni government issued an invitation to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] which agreed to come to the meeting.

Asked about the status of the Palestinian forces in Yemen following the Gaza-Jericho agreement, the Palestinian ambassador said that these forces, like others elsewhere, will be transferred to Gaza and Jericho. He added that preparations are under way to transport these forces to

Cairo, which will be used as an assembly point where these forces will be reorganized and retrained so that they can carry out their new tasks as efficiently as possible.

PFLP-GC's Jibril Confirms 'Arafat Death Threat

JN0810143193 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 9-15 Oct 93 pp 16, 17

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, PFLP-GC, in Damascus, by Nidal Mansur and Raja Talab, in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [SHIHAN] Is it your intention to follow through on the threat you issued to 'Arafat following the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord?

[Jibril] What I said was absolutely clear: Any leader who sells out his people and their history must be called to account by his people. Having betrayed the trust, he will be brought to account by his people and their vanguards.

[SHIHAN] Do you think you have a mandate from your people to kill him?

[Jibril] We still see ourselves as representatives of the people and thus represent our people's yearning to liberate Palestine and their adherence to the National Charter. We, therefore, think that every conscientious Palestinian's responsibility is to call 'Arafat to account. In Islamic tradition, it does not take a fatwa to kill an apostate. Having defected from his faith, an apostate thus makes himself a legitimate target. One who has relinquished his land as well is doubly guilty. He has also sold out on the history of the fathers and forefathers and blood of tens of thousands of martyrs who have fallen since 1917. And now, just like that, 'Arafat comes along to say he has recognized Israel and its right to exist. Doesn't he feel any shame saying this?!

[SHIHAN] Is your order to kill 'Arafat as good as a fatwa?

[Jibril] It is a militant, revolutionary fatwa decreed by our masses. I have said that every martyr's widow, son, sister, or brother must call 'Arafat to account. I would be extremely happy if a martyr's family member could avenge themself on 'Arafat for his hideous deed.

[SHIHAN] Don't you fear that you may be eliminated by 'Arafat instead?

[Jibril] I am a potential martyr. The West, for all its resources, and the Arab governments allied to it, do not scare us. We will keep fighting for Palestine. We will take our revenge on whoever throws away our land—land that we have been bequeathed by our grandfathers and land that we will bequeath to our children and grandchildren. The land is an Islamic trust that may not be surrendered by anyone at all.

[SHIHAN] A plan allegedly masterminded by the Iranians to assassinate 'Arafat while he was on a recent visit to Turkey was said to have been uncovered. Were you involved in the alleged plot?

[Jibril] 'Arafat typically surrounds himself with a silly kind of aura and media hype. When the time comes to punish 'Arafat, there will be no resort to treachery, explosive charges, or remote control. Our people boast thousands of Khalid al-Islambulis. [the man who killed Anwar al-Sadat]

[SHIHAN] Do you think that the method of liquidation can change anything in the settlement process? If 'Arafat goes, there are others who can replace him. There is Abu-Mazin, also known as Mahmud 'Abbas, for example. Al-Sadat died, and Husni Mubarak came, and the Egypt of Camp David has continued.

[Jibril] This does not apply to Egypt. Egypt has its own institutions and systems. When al-Sadat passed way, Husni Mubarak came. But for us in the Palestinian arena, it is a different story. The traitors who sold out are very few, in fact a handful.

[SHIHAN] So you think that 'Arafat's departure will mean the end of his team?

[Jibril] No one will dare to continue. Mahmud 'Abbas will flee. He holds Canadian nationality and will seek political asylum in Canada. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh will go to the United States.

[SHIHAN] But 'Isam al-Sartawi was killed, and the settlement continued.

[Jibril] Al-Sartawi was a jerk. He was a minor person and was not a decisionmaker. I have always said that we should not worry about the snake's tail, but that we should cut off its head. As for the judgment and punishment of traitors, this is not only meant to protect the current stage, but this question is part of the people's retribution.

[SHIHAN] Are you still planning to kill 'Arafat?

[Jibril] I have not said this.

[SHIHAN] You are reported to have said this.

[Jibril] I have said that the people will kill 'Arafat.

[SHIHAN] Have you devised a plan to take revenge on 'Arafat?

[Jibril] The question of retribution is in the name of the people. I say that this man must be killed and liquidated because he has relinquished our most sacred possessions.

[SHIHAN] But 'Arafat has very strong security and intelligence forces that can protect him. He might even hit you.

[Jibril] We know that 'Arafat's forces are linked with the enemy's services, from the Shen Bet to the Mosad, and they coordinate with them. We also know that for many

years, 'Arafat coordinated with European and U.S. security services. You know that I have been threatened for five years by some international intelligence services.

[SHIHAN] We are now talking about your threats to 'Arafat. What if the world adopts a stand toward you in light of these threats? How will you face this situation?

[Jibril] We have been defending principles and values for over 30 years. There is a difference between my martyrdom while defending the land of Palestine and 'Arafat getting killed because he betrayed the land of Palestine. The second thing is that I know very well that not a single person would listen to 'Arafat if he asks him to confront us. Even the mercenaries cannot face us. He will prompt them to commit a treacherous act. But when I say that a father or wife of a martyr will plunge a knife into 'Arafat's chest and say this is the due punishment of the person who sold out, then I am certain that there are many among this people who want to do this without any instigation.

[SHIHAN] Why don't you count on the role of the masses and the members of your forces and your political clout in the occupied territories to foil the Gaza-Jericho agreement without resorting to assassination?

[Jibril] We are now addressing the masses of our people and are driving them in this direction. We are certain that 'Arafat will enter Gaza or Jericho under the protection of Israeli-U.S. spears. Rabin also wants 'Arafat to come quickly to Gaza and Jericho to assist the Israeli presence in Gaza and the West Bank. When we say this, this does not mean we are unaware of the important role of the masses.

[SHIHAN] It has been said that you do not have a strong popular base inside the occupied territory in order to confront the Gaza-Jericho agreement?

[Jibril] Who said this?

[SHIHAN] World media.

[Jibril] I have not heard this. When we call on the masses in the occupied territory, we will find full response.

[SHIHAN] Where is your military action? Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Islamic Jihad, and Fatah itself carry out military operations. However, we have not heard about any military operations by the PFLP-GC for a long time.

[Jibril] Our military action has not stopped. One week ago, we destroyed an Israeli vehicle and a number of settlers were wounded.

[SHIHAN] You are now stationed in Damascus, and Syria is a party to the settlement and to the Madrid process. What will you do once the Syrians reach a peace agreement with Israel, and where will you go?

[Jibril] We should reach an understanding and ask whether the settlement is a treacherous settlement like the one approved by 'Arafat. We must not anticipate things. We and Syria, which follows this line, are in agreement on specific bases. We do not believe that our alliance with Syria has come to a stop.

[SHIHAN] But you are planning to move to Tehran in preparation for such a possibility?

[Jibril] We cannot leave the cordon states surrounding Palestine. We are not a political party, and we are not like [Mas'ud] Barzani who can go to remote countries. We will stay here in Syria, in Jordan, in Lebanon, and inside the occupied territory. We will continue to fight until martyrdom or victory.

[SHIHAN] You are a party to the National Salvation Front, and you are allying yourself with Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. These factions have announced many times since the signing of the agreement that they are against internecine Palestine fighting. By calling for assassinating Yasir 'Arafat you are deviating from the general political line of the alliance.

[Jibril] If we say that the people have to punish the traitors does this mean internecine fighting? I believe the opposite. If our people expeditiously punish 'Arafat they can prevent bloodshed and battles that would be fabricated by 'Arafat himself. In his letter to Rabin in which he recognized the Zionist entity, 'Arafat said he will crush [preceding word in English] the opponents. This means that 'Arafat is embarking on a specific mission. He will become a police chief under scrutiny. This means he will become like Antoine Lahd in southern Lebanon, or even less than Lahd. The objective of the Israelis in expediting his entry to Gaza and Jericho is to rid themselves of the current situation in the West Bank and Gaza.

[SHIHAN] How would you explain the Palestinian man in the street's support for 'Arafat's move and the PLO-Israel accord?

[Jibril] How much support? It is natural that any treasonous moves have a degree of support. But you are in error to think that supporters are in the majority. You do not know what is going on in the West Bank and Gaza. Consider the daily protests in every West Bank and Gaza locality. Thousands have come out against the accord, leading 'Arafat to mobilize rival supporters. When he found that his supporters were no match for opponents of the accord, he ordered his camp to take a lower profile. 'Arafat's supporters had an economic axe to grind, and this is morally bankrupt. The vibrant forces of our people, however, continue to stand up to occupation.

[SHIHAN] If enlightened masses in the occupied territory are anti-'Arafat—and these are your masses and the ones opposed to the agreement with Israel—why don't you bet on them toppling it instead of resorting to violent means?

[Jibril] I have drawn a parallel between 'Arafat and an apostate in Islam who forfeits his life. As an individual, an apostate here might not affect the whole Islamic nation, but the damage done by 'Arafat to our history

and our present and future cannot be overstated. Hence the opposition by the nationalist figures within Fatah and the PLO. 'Arafat rides roughshod over this opposition and yet he brags about democratic practices. This is falsification, especially given that the Central Committee, meaning his political oureau, had been kept in the dark about the deal until 'Arafat brought it to them and said: You will agree to it without amending a word. You had better not reject it. He then went about intimidating them one by one when with his security apparatus in Tunis. 'Arafat could not bear the barbs of Naji al-'Ali [a Palestinian cartoonist whose caricatures satirized Arab politicians] and so had him murdered on a London street. He sent a hitman to eliminate a worthy artist, the same way he had Majid Abu-Sharar eliminated in Rome. As I have always said, 'Arafat must be in the dock to stand trial by his people. When I heard about 'Arafat surviving a plane crash a year ago, I thought to myself this is God's will. Had he not survived that incident, some of his people would have prayed that his soul rest in peace. But it seems that God spared him so that his people may uncover his treason.

[SHIHAN] Back to the question of recognition of Israel. By recognizing UN Security Council Resolution 242, a country thus automatically recognizes Israel's right to exist. Accordingly, all the parties that joined the Madrid conference, including Syria, recognized Israel. Thus, 'Arafat should not be singled out for criticism for recognizing Israel.

[Jibril] So be it. As you must know, our organization is opposed to this program. The program was adopted when we opted out of the PLO following our departure from Lebanon when 'Arafat went along with this agenda.

When we were still one of the constituent groups of the PLO, neither 'Arafat nor anyone else dared subscribe to Resolution 242.

As for why Syria approved Resolution 242, Syria wants Resolution 242 implemented, but it has not recognized Israel. Had it done so, would Rabin, along with America, have insisted on a Syrian letter of recognition for Israel? In return for such a letter, Syria would immediately restore 50 percent of the Golan Heights. Why does Syria reject that? Resolution 242 has numerous interpretations that we do not accept. However, the resolution demands the enemy withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967. None of this has taken place yet!

[SHIHAN] But it is an integrated resolution. If you accept one part of it, you should accept the other part and its consequences. Recognizing Israel's right to exist in the region is an indivisible part of the resolution.

[Jibril] The resolution says that it is impermissible to occupy others' territory by force, that Israel should withdraw from the territories it occupied, that all parties have the right to live in peace, and that the refugee problem should be solved. However, 'Arafat took nothing from the resolution except Israel's right to exist.

[SHIHAN] If a comprehensive peace is achieved on the basis of Resolution 242, as Syria is demanding, should a dispute be expected between you and the Syrians?

[Jibril] If the Israeli flag flies in Damascus or in Amman, God forbid, do not imagine that we will accept it. This runs absolutely contrary to what we believe. It is either us or this existence. We will not accept this flag being hoisted in these capitals. If it is hoisted there, we will resist it with our utmost capability and with the resolve of our masses.

[SHIHAN] We have a final question concerning the 10 factions' meetings in Damascus. Have you arrived at a specific mechanism to define the next steps to counter the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Jibril] First, we are agreed that what has happened is treason. The 10 factions said that this is a "treasonous deal." The 10 factions' secretaries general and officials repeatedly said that this is an act of treason. Second, we agreed on the need to topple this plan and the leaders responsible for it. We are now looking for an organizational formula. Politically, there is no dispute among the 10 factions. We are now discussing the organizational formula for the next phase. We are discussing whether we should set up a PLO leadership that adheres to the charter.

[SHIHAN] What about the program?

[Jibril] It is the charter, not the program. This leadership believes that 'Arafat left the PLO when he abandoned the charter, which is the basis of the PLO. There is another suggestion that calls for the formation of a broad front and a leadership to struggle against and confront 'Arafat. Such a leadership should not be satisfied with verbal opposition. Popular and national conferences will be held to elect this leadership. This is our current concern. We will have meetings on Thursday. Organizational ideas in this regard will be agreed upon early next week.

[SHIHAN] Thank you, Abu-Jihad.

[Jibril] Thanks for SHIHAN.

'Iranian Scheme' To Assassinate 'Arafat Uncovered

NC0910121793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis, 9 Oct (MENA)—Fatah Central Committee Member al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim has revealed that the Palestinian leadership recently uncovered an Iranian scheme to assassinate Yasir 'Arafat in collaboration with an Arab state. He said Iran financed that scheme with all the resources available to it, that it is training elements selected for that purpose, and that it is being assisted in it by that Arab state.

'Abd-al-Rahim, who is the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, told MENA correspondent in Tunis that the Iranian scheme involves several aspects. He revealed

that an attempt was made to blow up 'Arafat's plane just before his departure for an Arab state two weeks ago.

'Abd-al-Rahim disclosed that the Iranian scheme involves attempts to tempt certain elements by money or intimidation to hurt PLO leaders.

Palestinian Police Stage 'Purge'

JN0810195693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Well-informed sources in the Tunisian capital have said that the Palestinian security forces arrested dozens of people in Tunis over the past week. Palestinian security forces conducted a large-scale purge campaign trying to prove that there are ties between anti-'Arafat groups and those who have been detained. The detainees are blamed for not showing enthusiasm and for casting doubts on the agreement between the PLO and Israel. The same sources said that bodyguards of a number of PLO officials, such as Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray', member of the Fatah Central Committee], Hakam Bal'awi [member of the Fatah Central Committee], Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh [member of the PLO Executive Committee], and Hajj Isma'il, have also been arrested.

The sources added that a number of Yasir 'Arafat's escorts yesterday stormed the office and residence of Hani al-Hasan [member of the Fatah Central Committee], who opposes the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, arrested his security men, and released them yesterday afternoon after seizing their weapons. It is believed that the 'Arafat's men also seized the documents in the office of Hani al-Hasan, who is not currently in Tunis, and sealed his office.

Official Palestinian sources have not yet commented on these reports.

Further on Tunis Purge

NC0810202593 Paris AFP in English 1801 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis, Oct 8 (AFP)—The PLO is conducting a large-scale purge of its internal security service amid dissent about peace with Israel and the discovery of an assassination plot against Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Palestinian sources said Friday [8 October].

Dozens of Palestinian security agents and bodyguards of Palestine Liberation Organisation officials have been arrested and jailed by the organisation, said the sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Among those arrested in the operation, which started last Saturday and continued on Friday, were the bodyguards of the PLO economics chief Ahmad Kuriyah and of PLO spokesman Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, they said.

Those arrested were being detained in the Hammam al-Shatt, the PLO's old headquarters in the southern suburbs of Tunis, under the guard of Jihad al-Ghul, 'Arafat's top security man.

The security services were trying to find links between those arrested and radical groups, including dissenting PLO factions, which are opposed to the autonomy accord with Israel, the sources said.

The purged security officers had displayed "skepticism" towards the accord, which was signed last month in Washington, they said.

They added that security men from 'Arafat's personal bodyguard on Thursday raided the office and home of Hani al-Hasan, a high-ranking PLO official openly opposed to the accord, and arrested his security officers.

They closed off the premises, seized documents, and confiscated al-Hasan's cars.

His bodyguards were released later in the day after their firearms were confiscated.

The PLO was not available for official comment Friday.

[London MBC Television in Arabic at 2000 GMT cites the AFP report and adds the following:

"In a telephone interview with MBC, Mr. Mahmud 'Abbas has denied that the reason for the detentions that have taken place was because a conspiracy to assassinate Palestinian leaders was uncovered."]

Bal'awi Discounts Reports

LD0910224593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Excerpts] In Middle Eastern news, half of the members of the transitional authority to be in charge of managing self-rule in Gaza and Jericho will be from the diaspora, while the other half will be from the PLO Executive Committee. [passage omitted]

Concerning recent reports on a plan to assassinate Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, two other leadership members and a number of President 'Arafat's personal bodyguards, the PLO today categorically denied those reports.

Mr. Hakam Bal'awi, member of the PLO Executive Committee and Palestinian ambassador to Tunis, said that the reports aimed to create panic and to shake internal tranquillity and confidence.

Further on Bal'awi Denial

LD1010033493 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] A Palestinian official denied reports circulating on foiling an attempt to assassinate President Yasir 'Arafat and other Palestinian leaders.

Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee and PLO representative in Tunisia, announced that such reports seek to create confusion and upset tranquility and trust among the Palestinians.

In a statement to WAFA in Tunis, Bal'awi this evening called on the media to be responsible in seeking accuracy of information in matters of this nature, which have political indications and which are intended to distort the harmonious political climate in the Palestinian national work at this stage when the efforts are concentrated on the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

Allegations 'Totally Untrue'

NC0910163593 Paris AFP in English 1610 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis, Oct 9 (AFP)—The PLO on Saturday [9October] denied reports that it was conducting a purge of its internal security service following the discovery of a plot within its ranks to kill chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Hakam Bal'awi, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's representative in Tunis, told AFP that the reports were "totally untrue."

The "allegations of arrests (of security men) and plots can only come from the imagination of those who want to sow discord and doubt," he said.

Palestinian sources said Friday that the PLO was conducting a purge of its internal security forces amid dissent about peace with Israel and the discovery of an assassination plot against 'Arafat.

They said dozens of PLO members had been arrested following the discovery of the plot.

Bal'awi said the allegations were proven wrong by "the reality of the tight cohesion around the leadership figure of Abu-'Ammar ('Arafat), the Palestinian leadership in general and the PLO, a cohesion which disturbs certain parties."

A Tunisian newspaper reported Saturday that radical Palestinians and Arabs outside PLO ranks had also formulated a plot to kill 'Arafat and senior PLO leaders associated with last month's peace deal with Israel

There was no immediate PLO comment on Saturday's report.

Abu-Mazin on Events

NC0810221093 London MBC Television in Arabic 2108 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Important, though conflicting, reports have come from PLO headquarters in Tunisia tonight. AFP cited well-informed PLO sources as saying that a week ago Palestinian security forces arrested dozens in a wide-scale purge of Palestinian security organs. Other sources said that the purges followed the uncovering of a plot to assassinate President Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Tonight we telephoned Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, head of the PLO Arab and International Department, who attributed the development to differences among the bodyguards.

[Begin recording] ['Abbas] This news is untrue. The truth of the matter is that the bodyguards of one of the PLO leaders quarreled among themselves following a heated discussion of certain issues. The Palestinian security forces moved in, collected their weapons, and took them in for questioning. There is nothing more to it.

[MBC correspondent Antoin 'Awn] But, Abu-Mazin, AFP said that the arrests included bodyguards of President Yasir 'Arafat and Abu-al-'Ala [Ahmad Quray'], who are now held in al-Shatt Prison, the former headquarters of the PLO. What is your comment?

['Abbas] This is also untrue. There have been quarrels among those bodyguards, too, and they underwent questioning. I think that they will be released today or tomorrow. It is common for bodyguards to quarrel among themselves, and you know that they are armed. Therefore, we took quick action to contain the situation and detained the individuals involved so that they did not start a gunfight.

['Awn] How true is the news that 'Arafat's bodyguards raided the house of Hani al-Hasan and arrested the latter's bodyguards? It is known that al-Hasan is opposed to the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

['Abbas] My answer to your first question was actually about brother al-Hasan's bodyguards. Al-Hasan is not in Tunisia right now, and there was a quarrel among his bodyguards and escorts. We were afraid that matters would develop into a gunfight. So, we had to detain them and disarm them and then release them.

['Awn] Thank you, Abu-Mazin. [end recording]

After this denial by Mahmud 'Abbas, an anonymous Palestinian source contacted us and said that the operation really took place three days ago and that seven of 'Arafat's bodyguards were arrested. The source disclosed that 23 others are still on the run and that all 30 members of the cell [not further specified] are members of Abu-Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] group.

Abu-Sharif Confirms Arrest Campaign

JN1010072193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador in Amman, has affirmed that an attempt to blow up Yasir 'Arafat's plane was foiled two weeks ago. He also affirmed that Iran had a hand in the attempt.

Meanwhile, Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, affirmed the launching of an arrest campaign in the ranks of the Palestinian security organs in Tunisia. He added: We always arrest members who violate the law, and we do our utmost to prevent the interference of foreign intelligence organs in our affairs. Bassam Abu-Sharif refrained from pinpointing these foreign intelligence organs.

Regarding the reports on his dismissal from the PLO and on being prevented from from leaving Tunisia, Bassam Abu-Shari said: These reports, which seek to create confusion, are baseless. He, however, affirmed that telephone lines to his home had been cut, adding that it was a Tunisian measure done for technical reasons.

Yesterday, Bassam Abu-Sharif received at his office a delegation of the Arab Democracy Party in the Israeli Knesset led by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawishah. The delegation arrived in Tunisia to attend the meeting of the PLO Central Council as an observer. This was announced in a statement by Talib al-Sani', a member of the delegation, who added that he met with Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, spiritual leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in his prison. He added that Shaykh Yasin informed him that he does not rule out Hamas' participation in the elections of the administrative council scheduled for next summer in accordance with the Israel-PLO agreement.

Abu-Sharif Denies Dismissal

TA1010060493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Report from Tunis by Arye Gus—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In a meeting held last night, Bassam Abu-Sharif denied reports that he opposes the agreement with Israel and that he has been distanced from 'Arafat's circles. He said: It is true that my telephone lines have been severed, but this is an internal Tunisian matter. He said this in a meeting with us, and in interviews with other correspondents.

He said: I support 'Arafat. I certainly favor the agreement. I have not quit, and I am not quitting the organization. Regarding the reports that attempts were made to assassinate 'Arafat, Bassam Abu-Sharif told us, this is not new. There have always been such rumors and there have always been such attempts. He reminded us that Israeli organs have also made such attempts and threats on 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

More on Arrests

LD0910222193 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat escaped two assassination attempts. His Palestinian adversaries, hostile to the agreement signed with Israel, reportedly even tried to blow up his plane two weeks ago. This no doubt explains the setting apart or arrest of several members of the security services. Philippe Cornu and Philippe Rochot are in Tunis:

[First unidentified reporter] Tunis is no longer wondering whether Palestinians have been arrested, but how many. Ten to 15 people are being spoken of, arrested by Force 17, the head of PLO guards. The newspaper ESSAHAFA, which is close to the Tunisian government, is even saying that the extremist dissident Ahmad Jibril had a plan to assassinate 'Arafat and three Palestinian leaders. Bassam Abu Sharif seemed skillfully surprised by this information, which has however been confirmed by several sources, and which shows that the PLO is putting its house in order, both with those opposing the peace agreement, and with the skeptics still in its ranks.

[Begin recording] [second unidentified reporter] It is being said by those associated with the Palestinian leaders that there have been several arrests of security officers.

[Abu Sharif, in French] Where? In the territories?

[Reporter] Here in Tunis.

[Abu Sharif] I have not heard this. Arrests? No, not at all. [end recording]

[Reporter] However, as the 107 Palestinian delegates who will take part in the Central Council session were arriving, Bassam Abu Sharif was himself the victim of a sort of purge, as his telephone was cut off and the guard around his office was reinforced this evening. Among all these men arriving in Tunis are all the trends, those for and those against. One quarter even think that the Council is not qualified to deliver a verdict on the agreement on autonomy. Most of the Palestinian delegates heard about these arrests as they arrived here in Tunis. They will of course be relevant to the debates that will take place, but the treaty with Israel and the agreement on autonomy should however win the day.

Islamic Jihad Involvement Cited

JN1010110893 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 10 Oct 93 pp 1, 15

[Excerpts] The Palestinian center in Tunis is in a real state of confusion following the reports about the assassination attempt—and even attempts—against the Palestinian president and other officials, and reports of arrests and the storming of offices along with the sacking of officials from leading posts for security, political, and financial reasons. [passage omitted]

AL-ASWAQ sources in the Tunisian capital said Yasir 'Arafat has formed a higher security investigation committee following the failure of the assassination attempt planned by a number of Palestinian security men. The committee is headed by 'Arafat, Hakam Bal-'awi [Fatah Central Committee member and Palestinian ambassador in Tunis], Khamis al-Ghul [not further identified], and Abu-al-Tayyib [nom de guerre], commander of Force-17, the Palestinian presidential security organ, who resumed his duties two months ago in direct coordination with 'Arafat.

The sources said preliminary investigations have made conclusive findings that show the pro-Iran Islamic Jihad Movement, led by Fathi al-Shaqaqi, is the main party involved in the attempt, and that Tehran is the state that mainly supports al-Shaqaqi.

The sources said the Jihad Movement has recently been able to recruit a number of bodyguards of some moderate Palestinian leaders such as [Executive Committee members] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Mahmud 'Abbas, as well as Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray', member of Fatah Central Committee] and Hakam Bal'awi.

Fatah's sources told AL-ASWAQ that Fatah Revolutionary Council member Abu-'Ali Shahin is also suspected of being involved in plotting the assassination attempt.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources said that the bodyguards of Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan stormed his house in the Tunisian capital and seized weapons and personal effects.

The sources said these bodyguards have not received their salaries for a long time, and that their actions sought to vent their anger. The sources said what happened has nothing to do with the thwarted assassination attempt against Yasir 'Arafat.

The same sources said the Palestinian security organs have taken into custody a number of leaders' bodyguards, especially those who showed opposition to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. [passage omitted]

'Arafat, Mali's Konare Discuss PLO-Israeli Accord

LD0910210293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar, [Yasir 'Arafat] president of the state of Palestine, met with His Excellency Alpha Oumar Konare, president of the Republic of Mali, yesterday evening in Tunis. During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and the declaration of principles between the PLO and Israel. They also discussed bilateral relations and ways of bolstering and developing these relations in various fields.

The Malian president expressed his congratulations, and those of the people and government of Mali, on the signing of the declaration of principles agreement between the PLO and Israel. He regarded it as a first historic and important step along the road of establishing a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue. He stressed his country's support for the struggle of the Palestinian people and said that this support will continue until the national, legitimate, and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people are realized.

Following the meeting, brother president Abu-'Ammar made the following statement:

There is no doubt that I will cherish this fraternal meeting in my heart with all pride and affection. I thanked his excellency the president for the principled and balanced stand that his excellency and his government and people have been adopting toward the Palestinian people. I explained to his excellency all the details pertaining to the agreement that took place between us and the Israelis, including the meeting between Rabin and myself the day before yesterday.

I thanked him for his stand in support of this agreement. I wished that we would pray together soon in Jerusalem, God willing.

In response to a question on what his position was at the moment on the signing of the agreement between the PLO and Israel, brother president Abu-'Ammar said that there are many difficulties and that there are military raids of refugee camps, towns, and villages. This is a violation of the agreement. At the same time, this has been a point that we discussed with Rabin at the last meeting in Cairo. There are promises to ease the measures but, regrettably, Jerusalem has been isolated from the rest of the land until now.

Bethlehem Mayor Proposes Regional Benelux

JN0910085493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Oct 93 pp 32, 24

[By Hamdan al-Hajj in Amman]

[Excerpts] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has said what happened on 13 September is a miracle realized in the interest of the Palestinian people. He said this is because almost the entire world previously described the PLO and its chairman as terrorist. The mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel, the acceptance of coexistence, and the subsequent signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is an achievement that cannot be ignored. He said great shrewdness led to the Oslo agreement, and described 13 September as an historic day, saying what happened was seen and heard by the peoples of 182 UN states.

In exclusive interview with AL-DUSTUR, Frayj added that this event has eliminated the principle of Greater Israel and the idea of mass transfer [preceding word in English] of Palestinians, about which the Israeli leaders used to speak. [passage omitted]

Frayj suggested a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli confederation or a system similar to that linking Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands—an idea he called for on 4 November 1974 because, he said, it would be economically feasible. He dispelled Arab countries' fears of an Israeli economic invasion of the Arab economy, saying most Arab countries are importing and consuming states that pay for their imports, so what is the harm of getting high qality goods at lower prices? [passage omitted]

Egypt

Musa, Palestinian Envoy Discuss 13 Oct Meeting

NC1110155793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt welcomed the Palestinian and Israeli request to host the Palestinian-Israeli committee meetings in Cairo and Tabah to discuss the implementation of the accord. He noted that he will hold separate talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and [PLO Executive Committee member] Mahmud 'Abbas to give impetus to the peace efforts.

Minister Musa met today with Sa'id Kamal, Palestine ambassador in Cairo, who said that he had informed the Egyptian foreign minister of the latest decisions made by the Palestinian leadership concerning the Liaison Committee meeting in Cairo and the Gaza-Jericho Committee in Tabah. He thanked Egypt for the arrangements it made to host the meeting of the two committees. He pointed out that the Liaison Committee meeting will start at 0930 on Wednesday [13 October] morning, while the Gaza-Jericho Committee meeting will begin at 0830 on the same day.

The Palestinian ambassador added that he conveyed to the minister an urgent message from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat on some issues related to the 13 October talks. He added that Mahmud 'Abbas will chair the Liaison Committee, while Dr. Nabil Sha'th will chair the Gaza-Jericho Committee.

Peres To Lead Israeli Delegation

NC1110134393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1316 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—Israeli Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan has stated that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will arrive in Cairo Wednesday [13 October] to chair the Israeli delegation to the liaison committee meetings that will convene on the same day at the Hilton Hotel to discuss implementing the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles. In a statement today, Sultan said that the meetings will last one day. He said that the Gaza-Jericho committee meeting will begin in Tabah on the same day, noting that the Israeli side will be headed by Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Shahal and that the meetings will last for two days or more in view of the numerous issues it will discuss.

It should be recalled that this committee will discuss arrangements for withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. Concluding his statement, Sultan said that he and the director of the Israeli desk at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry today discussed the situation in the Canada Camp in Rafah with the aim of reuniting members of Palestinian families.

The Palestinian side of the liaison committee meeting will be headed by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas. The head of the delegation to the Gaza-Jericho committee has not been named.

Delegation Leaves for Tunis Refugee Meeting

NC1010114193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1053 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—An Egyptian delegation led by Ambassador Ahmad 'Utman from the Foreign Ministry left Cairo this afternoon for Tunis to attend the meetings of the refugees committee of the multilateral talks. The meetings will open the day after tomorrow in Tunis and will last for two days.

Ambassador 'Uthman stated that the committee will discuss all issues related to the Palestinian refugees, reuniting them with their families, and a number of subjects related to the refugee camps. The committee will also examine the problems facing the refugees and study a number of projects to ease their suffering, provided this is done without prejudice to their internationally recognized legitimate rights.

Mubarak, al-Asad Discuss Peace Process by Phone

NC1110140693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a telephone call from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The two presidents exchanged views on certain practical aspects of the peace process in the Middle East.

Al-Baz Expects Syrian-Israeli Accord by Next Spring

NC1110055893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, today expressed the belief that a peace agreement could be reached between Syria and Israel by next spring. In an interview with REUTER, Dr. al-Baz said Egypt will try to convince Israel of the small amount of risk in movement on the Syrian track parallel with progress on the Palestinian track. Egypt will also convince it of the necessity for such movement. He added that it is difficult to imagine that the Palestinians and Jordanians would normalize their relations with Israel while the Syrian issue is frozen. Therefore, it is imperative for Israel to withdraw from the Golan.

Dr. al-Baz said there is still about two months of work in order to complete the agreements signed between Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon [as heard]. He said he expects a new round of peace talks to be held in Washington next month.

Mubarak, Fahd Continue 'Consultations' by Phone

NC0910190293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] This afternoon, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak telephoned Saudi Arabian Monarch King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy shrines, as part of the continuing consultations between the two Arab leaders regarding issues of importance to the Arab and Islamic world.

'Arafat, Weizman, Others Congratulate Mubarak

NC0810222493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat applauded the unyielding support of the Egyptian Government and people to the just cause of the Palestinian people and their national struggle for freedom and independence. In a congratulatory message he sent today to President Husni Mubarak on his reelection, 'Arafat said that Egyptian support was instrumental in the historic achievement of the Palestinian people in the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and the mutual recognition.

The Palestinian president said that as the Palestinian people enter a new phase of their just national struggle, the phase of construction, they are confident that Egypt will continue its political, economic, media, and moral support. He said that he hopes Egypt will help the Palestinian people build institutions and an infrastructure, which will serve as the foundation for the establishment of their independent country with Jerusalem as its capital.

President Mubarak received congratulatory cables on his reelection for a third term from United Arab Emirates president Shaykh Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, the Bahraini amir, and the Qatari amir.

President Mubarak also received a telephone call this afternoon from Israeli President Ezer Weizman, who congratulated him on his reelection for a third term in office.

Foreign Minister Views Efforts To End Somali Crisis

NC1110201993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—Following his meeting with UN Assistant Secretary General James Jonah this evening, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that the meeting on the Somali crisis scheduled to convene in Addis Ababa on 20 October will be under the joint auspices of the OAU and the United Nations. He noted that UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali declared that President Husni Mubarak and Ethiopian Leader Meles Zenawi will participate in the meeting along with the Arab League secretary general, the Islamic Conference Organization secretary general, and the OAU secretary general. He said that he, Jonah, and Ambassador Ahmad Hajjaj, the OAU assistant secretary general, discussed the Somali crisis and the UN secretary general's visit to Cairo and the countries on the Horn of Africa.

Musa said that Egypt is continuing its efforts to find a way to handle the Somali crisis and reach a solution that will ensure stability, security, and national reconciliation and prevent acts of aggression from recurring in Somalia.

Musa denied that invitations were sent to the Somali parties to attend the meeting because it is a joint meeting of the United Nations and the OAU to consult on the situation in Somalia, which he said is still tense. He said that the goal of the meeting is to implement the reconciliation agreement that the Somali parties reached earlier and not to initiate a discussion of the situation. He pointed out that Egypt's chairmanship of the OAU means that it should do all it can to prevent the dangers that might result from an escalation of the situation. He declined to comment on the U.S. position, saying that what has happened will be taken into account during the ongoing efforts.

Mubarak Meets Sidqi; Cabinet To Tender Resignation

NC1110133593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak this morning received Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi at the president's office. After the two-hour meeting, Dr. Sidqi stated that he had submitted to the president a report on his government's performance in the past years. The report includes its accomplishments and the government's performance in various sectors, including the implementation of the economic reform program. He added that he had briefed President Mubarak on the details of the economic reform program endorsed by the IMF and the World Bank on 20 September, adding that the Paris Club of Creditors a few days ago dropped 15 percent of Egypt's outstanding debts. Thus, 30 percent of Egypt's debts has been forgiven and 20 percent more will be forgiven under the new agreement, he added.

Dr. Sidqi pointed out that President Mubarak had given instructions to continue and follow up on the external contacts with the IMF and the World Bank to expedite the measures agreed upon, which the government will implement as part of the economic reform process, most importantly reforming the structure of customs duties through import duties and its relation to foreign trade. Dr. Sidqi added that President Mubarak will take the constitutional oath before the People's Assembly tomorrow. After a cabinet meeting tomorrow, the government will tender its resignation to the president tomorrow night or Wednesday morning, he added.

Politician, Journalists Questioned on Anti-Mubarak Book

NC0910064793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Oct (MENA)—The Higher State Security Prosecution Office has released Labor Party deputy leader Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad on 5,000 pounds bail. AL-SHA'B journalists Salah Budaywi and 'Ali al-Qammash were also released on 1,000 and 500 pounds bail respectively. The Prosecution Office ordered the confiscation of a book entitled "No to Mubarak's Renomination" and summoned former AL-SHA'B Chief Editor 'Adil Husayn and AL-SHA'B current Chief Editor Majdi Ahman Husayn for questioning.

The Prosecution Office questioned Murad, Budaywi, and al-Qammash for two days concerning their recent articles which contained attacks on the president and their attempts to instigate the public and compromise Egypt's relations with some foreign countries.

A number of lawyers and some members of the Journalists Association were present at the interrogations. Ibrahim Nafi', chairman of the Journalists Association, telephoned Counselor Raja' al-'Arabi to discuss the course of the investigations.

Association Concerned Over Interrogations

NC1110204193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1619 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—The Journalists Association Council has urged all quarters to respect journalists' security and freedoms and to refrain from taking any measures that may restrict their beliefs just so long as they do not violate the law and the Constitution.

In a statement issued on the questioning of some journalists working in the newspaper AL-SHA'B, the Journalists Association affirmed that journalists have rights and also have duties, and that it is the duty of journalists to be objective in their reporting and not to make accusations without evidence. The following is the text of the statement:

The Journalists Association Council has followed with extreme concern the questioning of a number of fellow journalists at the newspaper AL-SHA'B by the State Security Prosecution Office. The Council urges all quarters to observe the guarantees provided by the Journalists Association Law No. 86 of the year 1970 as well as the Penal Code for journalists concerning publishing offenses, such as the nondetention of journalists and their release on bail. The Council urges all quarters to respect journalists' security and freedoms and to refrain from adopting any measures that may restrict their beliefs and ideas, so long as they do not violate the law and the Constitution.

In this respect, the Council affirms that journalists have rights but they also have duties, and that it is the duty of journalists to be objective in their work and not to make accusations without evidence. The Council reiterates that all journalists renounce terrorism and armed violence as a means of expressing an opinion and condemn all criminal acts against the lives of individuals and public figures and those that seek to change the regime by force and violence. In the meantime, the Council respects the right of political forces and parties to express their opinion within the framework of democracy and pluralism, which everyone must respect.

Interrogation of Labor Party's 'Adil Husayn Continues

NC0910201893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—Officials of the Higher State Security Prosecutor's Office began today interrogating 'Adil Husayn, former chief editor of the newspaper AL-SHA'B and Labor Party secretary general. Husayn was questioned for four hours in connection with the charge that, through his newspaper articles, he incited public opinion, threatened social peace, and offended the state's symbols.

Husayn, whose interrogation was attended by several lawyers and some members of the Journalists Association, denied the charge. The Prosecutor's Office will continue interrogating Husayn, who is currently detained at the Heliopolis Police Station, tomorrow, Sunday.

Meanwhile, Labor Party deputy leader Dr. Hilmi Murad was released by an order of the Higher State Security Prosecutor's Office after posting a 5000-pound bail. The journalists Salah Budaywi and 'Ali al-Qammash were also released after the Journalists Association posted their bail, which the Prosecutor's Office reduced by 50 percent, making it 500 pounds for Budaywi and 250 pounds for al- Qammash. The two were accused of writing articles in AL-SHA'B which were deemed supportive of terrorism, harmful to Egypt's relationship with a foreign country, offensive to the state's symbols, and inciting to the public.

Al-Alfi Discusses Anti-Terrorism Campaign

NC1110215993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2117 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Minister of Interior Hasan al-Alfi has said that police agencies have achieved tangible success in pursuing terrorists in the past. He affirmed that the death or injury of policemen in the line of duty (?will not deter) them from resuming their continuous fight against terrorism.

Al-Alfi made these statements today after visiting First Lieutenant Hisham Muhammad [last name indistinct], who was wounded as he stormed the hideout of terrorist Ayman 'Awdah, who was killed in a clash with police today. Al-Alfi emphasized that the Interior Ministry's

current security campaign calls for an all-out confrontation with all terrorists to eliminate them completely as soon as possible.

'Terrorists' Arrested Under Heightened Security Campaign

NC0810163493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Oct (MENA)—The security organs today arrested terrorist Ashraf Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Abd-al-Jalil, one of the defendants in the assassination of Faraj Fudah case, which is currently being tried in the courts.

Security organs also arrested terrorist Ahmad Tuni 'Ali Farhat, who was charged with setting fire to some video clubs and was sentenced in absentia to 10 years in prison.

A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry stated that the arrest of these two terrorists is part of an intensive campaign recently launched by security forces to track down the fugitive terrorists.

He said that during this campaign they have also arrested 36 fugitive members of terrorist groups in the governorates of Cairo, al-Jizah, Bani Suwayf, Qina, al-Gharbiyah, and Ismailia.

The source said that the State Security Investigations, Criminal Investigations, and Cairo Investigations Departments are participating in this security campaign. They are being supported by Central Security Forces and various police units on the republic level.

He pointed out that the investigating bodies established security plans based on exchanging information among the various security sectors to tighten control of the movements of all these people, especially the fugitives.

The security source concluded by saying that the security organs are continuing their campaign to arrest all fugitive terrorists and take legal measures against them.

Plan To Kill Extremist Dissident Foiled

NC0910213693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2043 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—Security forces today uncovered a terrorist plan to carry out violent operations and eliminate some dissident extremists.

A security official said that some members of the new organization are leading terrorists serving jail sentences in Turrah Prison. They planned terrorist operations in jail and sent out their orders for implementation via some children who accompanied visitors to the jail.

The security official explained that in line with the Interior Ministry's strategy to place terrorist individuals under total surveillance and uncover their plans, State Security detectives stepped up their activity inside prisons to discover and foil any planned terrorist attempts. He added that these detectives succeeded in thwarting a plan drawn up by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid Muhammad Ahmad, defendant number 1 in the Imbabah incidents case; 'Antar al-Zayyat; and Nabil Muhammad Salim to assassinate Hamdi 'Abd-al-Rahim, a dissenter from their group. They issued a religious ruling for his elimination and the order was conveyed via the child Samih Muhammad Salim, brother of the convict Nabil Muhammad Salim to some terrorist elements in preparation for carrying out the plan.

The official said that the suspects were placed under total surveillance, some hideouts were raided, and five individuals arrested. On interrogation, the five confessed and were remanded pending further investigation.

Two 'Terrorists' Surrender, 22 Arrested 10 Oct

NC1010152993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—Two fugitive terrorists turned themselves in at the Manfalut Police Station in Upper Egypt today. A security source said that the two terrorists, Kamal Ibrahim Muhammad 'Ali and Ahmad 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad 'Atiyah, gave themselves up as a result of the intensive campaign to apprehend the terrorists in Asyut and tighten the noose on fugitives.

The source said that the new security strategy currently being implemented is characterized by firmness and decisiveness and is aimed at aborting the terrorist attempts before they are implemented.

Meanwhile, security forces today arrested 22 terrorists during security sweeps in the Governorates of al-Daqahliyah, al-Minufiyah, Aswan, al-Sharqiyah, al-Buhayrah, al-Gharbiyah, Suez, al-Jizah, Cairo, and Asyut.

Police in al-Jizah also arrested three persons who were in possession of cassettes and books containing speeches and sermons by some extremist leaders. In the houses of the three defendants the police seized 8,000 cassettes ready for distribution and nine cassette copying machines.

The security forces also foiled an attempt by some terrorists to conclude a deal to buy a quantity of live ammunition of various calibers. The security forces made an audio and video recording of all the stages of the negotiations to conclude the deal after receiving permission from the courts. The defendants were found in possession of 12,000 pounds, which they intended to use as an advance payment for the purchase of this ammunition.

An Interior Ministry source has stressed that the security sweeps will continue in all areas used as terrorist hideouts.

Police Seize 'Inflammatory' Islamist Cassettes

NC1110082393 Paris AFP in English 0052 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, Oct 11 (AFP)—Cairo police seized on Sunday [10 October] 10,000 audio cassette recordings of

inflammatory sermons by Islamic fundamentalist preachers, at the homes of three detained Islamic militant suspects, police said.

The recordings included speeches by Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the spiritual leader of the Egyptian fundamentalists, who is currently jailed in the United States.

Police said it was believed the cassettes were sold to raise money for "terrorist actions".

Attack Reported on Senior Military Prosecutor in Cairo

'Fundamentalists' Suspected

NC0910140693 Paris AFP in English 1253 GMT 9 Oct 93

[By Muna Salim]

[Text] Cairo, Oct 9 (AFP)—Suspected fundamentalists Saturday [9 October] shot and wounded a senior military prosecutor involved in a trial of Islamic militants, Egyptian police said.

Three gunmen opened fire on Lieutenant Colonel Taha al-Sayyid Taha as he left his home in the Cairo residential area of Heliopolis, wounding him in the abdomen and shoulder, police said.

The gunmen escaped and Taha is expected to survive.

Taha, chief military prosecutor for eastern Cairo, has been presiding over one of four ongoing trials of the Vanguard of the Conquest, an outlawed group accused of trying to overthrow the secular government.

President Husni Mubarak last year switched Muslim militant trials to military courts which issue harsher and swifter sentences than civilian courts. Military courts have since passed 21 death sentences.

Mubarak, beginning a third term as president after a referendum on Monday, has vowed to step up the drive against the fundamentalists, who launched a violent campaign last year that has led to the deaths of almost 200 people.

Islamic militants organized an attack against a military judge in July, but mistakenly fired at an army general, authorities said. Militants also wounded both the interior and information ministers in separate attacks this year.

Fifteen Islamic militants suspected of murdering a police officer were arrested on Friday, police said. Knives, revolvers and anti-government pamphlets were seized.

Police said one suspect, Ahmad al-Bakri, was a militant leader in Suez, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) east of Cairo, where officer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Shafi was killed last Saturday in clashes between authorities and 150 militants.

Seven policemen and three of the militants who had tried to put up anti-government posters were wounded.

Also Friday, two militants sought by police for other crimes were arrested and 36 others questioned in various nationwide raids.

Lawyers said Saturday that Hilmi Murad, the 74-year-old vice president of the opposition Labor Party, had been granted provisional release after being arrested Thursday for alleged insults against Mubarak in an article in the party newspaper, AL- SHA'B.

Two journalists at AL-SHA'B were also arrested Thursday on charges of publishing false information, but were later released on bail, the sources said.

Murad's article was an implicit accusation of corruption against Mubarak, the state prosecutor said. Murad asked the president to provide explanations of "weapons deals he concluded" under a parliamentary mandate.

The prosecutor's office continued to question the three men on Saturday and also decided to seize and ban a book entitled "Why We Say No" to Mubarak's campaign for president, written by Murad and the former editor of AL-SHA'B.

The prosecutor's office said the book was "propaganda for extremist ideas and a justification for terrorist operations."

Officer Out of Danger; Revenge Cited

NC0910155093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—An officer in the Armed Forces with the rank of lieutenant colonel was shot outside his home today while he was leaving for work.

The initial evidence shows that the incident is a case of revenge, since the shot officer is born in Asyut.

The officer was taken to a military hospital for treatment.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1503 provides the following update:

"Sources at the Military Hospital in Cairo, where the military officer who was shot today is being treated, said that his condition is reassuring, and there is no danger to his life.

"The medical sources said that the officer received the necessary treatment as soon as he arrived at the hospital, and that he is currently under intensive medical care.

"The officer, who holds the rank of lieutenant colonel, was shot earlier today as he was leaving his house in the Nasr City area for his work.

"Preliminary signs indicate that revenge motives are behind the incident."]

Islamic Militant Group Claims Attack

NC1010200493 Paris AFP in English 1818 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, Oct 10 (AFP)—A militant fundamentalist group, the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, on Sunday [10 October] claimed responsibility for an attack the previous day which wounded a senior military prosecutor.

In a statement, it said the attack was in revenge for death penalties given out by military tribunals to Islamic militants, and warned: "All members of military tribunals are targets for the armed wings of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah."

Lieutenant Colonel Taha al-Sayyid Taha was wounded in the abdomen and shoulder Saturday when three gunmen opened fire on him as he left his home in the Cairo residential area of Heliopolis.

Taha, chief military prosecutor for eastern Cairo, has been presiding over one of four ongoing trials of the Vanguard of the Conquest, an outlawed group which, like the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, is accused of trying to overthrow the secular government.

The attackers were "carrying out orders given to all the armed factions (of the group) to avenge themselves on everyone who has participated in the murder of a Muslim," the statement said.

Since December, 27 people have been sentenced to death by military tribunals, and 15 executions have been carried out.

The group also urged soldiers not to participate in military tribunals. If they did, they would be committing "capital crimes which can only be wiped out by the blood of vengeance," it warned.

President Husni Mubarak shifted trials of Islamic militants to military tribunals from the civil justice system last year in an attempt to speed up convictions.

More than 200 people have been killed since militants launched in March last year a campaign to overthrow the government and install an Iranian-style Islamic republic.

'Militants' Vow More Tourist Attacks Unless Demands Met

NC1110103193 Paris AFP in English 0958 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, Oct 11 (AFP)—An Islamic militant group warned Monday [11 October] it would continue its war against foreign tourists until the government meets its demands, including a halt to military trials and the release of thousands of detainees.

A leader of the fundamentalist al-Jama'iah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group], who wanted his name kept secret, told AFP that the attacks were a "card" the group could use to pressure the government.

Al-Jama'ah has claimed around 20 attacks on tourists in the past year, killing one British woman and wounding more than 20 other foreigners.

The gun and bomb strikes against tour buses and Nile cruise ships have frightened away many foreign holidaymakers and cost the country millions of dollars in lost income.

The official, who was recently freed by a military court, said the group would continue its attacks until the government met its demands.

These included stopping military trials of Muslim militants and freeing "6,000 members of the al-Jama'ah who have been held for five years," he said.

He said an earlier al-Jama'ah threat to attack churches was aimed at halting police raids on mosques.

At least 10 people have died in raids on mosques aimed at flushing out Muslim militants.

Policemen Killed in Separate Incidents in Cairo, Asyut

NC1110122193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—Captain 'Ala'-al-Din 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Banna of the Cairo detective force was killed during an operation carried out to arrest terrorist suspect Ayman 'Awdah Muhammad 'Awdah in al-Marj area of Cairo's al-Matariyah district at dawn today. The suspect, wanted in connection with the Zinhum case, was also killed and First Lieutenant Hisham Tammun of the Central Security Forces suffered slight injuries and was taken to the police hospital in al-'Ajuzah for treatment. The police found a pistol on the site of the clash which, it transpired, had been used in earlier incidents. The police are now searching the entire area.

Security forces left for al-Marj area this morning to arrest the terrorist Ayman 'Awdah following a tip that he was hiding in an apartment there. 'Awdah was a fugitive suspect wanted in connection with the Zinhum case and a prominent extremist and terrorist who had been charged in numerous former terrorist incidents in Asyut and Cairo.

[In a related report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1152 GMT on 11 October reports: "Unknown assailants shot dead police informant Muhammad 'Uthman Haridi while on his way from his village of 'Arab Fazarah in al-Qusiyah District to his job at Dayrut Police Station in Asyut Governorate. Citizen Fathi 'Abd-al-Mun'im Muhammad, 35, a native of the same village, who was passing by at the time of the attack was injured and transferred to al-Qusiyah's Central Hospital for treatment for fractures in his hand.

["Security Forces surrounded the area to look for the culprits, who escaped. The Al-Qusiyah Prosecution Office has begun an investigation."]

More 'Terrorists' Arrested

NC1110181893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1623 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Asyut, 11 Oct (MENA)—Security officers, in collaboration with the villagers of 'Arab Fazarah in al-Qusiyah District, have arrested a terrorist named Sayyid Muhammad Sulayman, a student in the Dayrut Secondary School. The terrorist was found in possession of two pistols, one of them belonging to police detective Muhammad 'Uthman Haridi, who was assassinated earlier today.

[In a related report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1720 GMT on 11 October adds in a Cairo-datelined item: "Security men in Suez Governorate have arrested fugitive terrorist Jamal Sadiq Mahdi Hasan, who is wanted in connection with state security Case No 123 of the year 1993, which is better known as the Vanguards of Triumph Organization, whose members are currently on trial.

["A responsible source at the Interior Ministry has stated that as part of the intensive measures to arrest fugitive elements involved in fundamentalist cases, security officers were informed that the terrorist was hiding in a house in the Suez Governorate. Acting on the tip, security troops stormed the hideout and arrested the terrorist. The prosecution office has been notified to begin the interrogation.

["The same source added that 31 terrorists on the run have been arrested in shantytowns and furnished apartments as part of the current search campaigns conducted by detectives in coordination with security and central security forces."]

Police Forces Arrest 'Terrorist' in Cairo

NC1110154093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—The Cairo police and central security forces today arrested terrorist Hasan 'Ali Hasan, an aid to terrorist Ayman 'Awdah Muhammad 'Awdah, who was killed early this morning during a clash with the security men who went to the al-Marj area to arrest him. Another terrorist managed to escape from the scene of the clash. The police forces are continuing their security campaign in the al-Marj area. A search is now under way for the fugitive terrorist.

Mubarak Inaugurates New Satellite Channel Service

NC1010131293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that peace in the Middle East will materialize when a solution is found for the issue of the occupied territories, including the occupied Palestinian territory and the Golan Heights, which are extremely important. He added: If no solution is found to these problems, it will be difficult to reach peace in the region, although this may take some time. He emphasized that there is no other way but to work for peace.

President Mubarak made these remarks today after inaugurating the Egyptian Satellite Channel service in foreign languages (English and French).

Asked if he will discuss the peace issues with U.S. President Bill Clinton when they meet in Washington later this month, President Mubarak said: Of course, I will discuss the Middle East issue with President Clinton. I will also discuss bilateral relations between Egypt and the United States and some other regional problems. He added: In my capacity as OAU chairman, my discussion with President Clinton will touch on some African issues.

In response to a question on the European role in Middle East peace, President Mubarak said: Europe is very close to the Middle East region and will be affected by any crisis taking place in our region. Thus, Europe is a very important factor in achieving peace in the region.

Asked about his hopes and dreams for the future, President Mubarak told broadcasters at the Egyptian Satellite Channel: I have hopes and dreams, now that we are at the doorstep of the 21st century. We must continue what we have started, achieve self-fulfillment, and walk hand in hand with the new world. Thus, we must work hard, and we have various plans that we will implement in order to catch up with progress all over the world.

On his impression about the new television channel, President Mubarak said: I could say after what I have seen in this brief visit that it is a great step forward. Now we have a new technology at an international level, and I am very pleased with it and feel proud about this new channel, which will convey a good image and true information about Egypt to the outside world.

In response to another question, President Mubarak said: I consider the people working in this new Egyptian Satellite Channel as ambassadors of Egypt to the entire world. Therefore, they must work hard because our television transmission reaches everywhere in the world.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has pointed out that the Egyptian Satellite Channel now covers Europe and the Arab world and will reach the United States within weeks. He noted that the new international channel broadcasting in English and French, which President Mubarak opened today, will later transmit in Russian to serve the Islamic republics and at a later stage will serve Africa.

During his visit to the television and radio transmission station in al-Muqattam [in Cairo], President Mubarak also inaugurated Television Channel 7 (broadcasting from al-Minya, Upper Egypt). The information minister explained to the president that this new television channel covers the governorates of Bani Suwayf, Asyut, Suhaj, and al-Fayyum, and is based in al-Minya.

President Mubarak asked where Television Channel 6 is located, and Minister al-Sharif pointed out that it will be based in Tanta, in the Nile Delta.

In a statement to Channel 7, President Mubarak said: I would like to tell our people in the northern part of Upper Egypt that I often hear that we do not pay much attention to Upper Egypt. In fact, this may be the wrong impression. We are following a plan, which has priorities, and our resources are limited. We proceed according to these priorities and our resources. Now we are giving greater momentum to the development of Upper Egypt, both in the field of media and other fields.

Mubarak Opens Strategic Communications Control Center

NC1010162293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning opened the control center of the Armed Forces strategic communications network. [passage omitted]

Presidential Press Office Chief Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im said that with the completion of the network, the backbone connecting all Egyptian Armed Forces branches and formations, the Armed Forces have now entered the most advanced stage at which armies of developed countries are operating.

He said the network has accomplished an important objective: automatic command and control over all units and formations with the provision of communication channels operating at very high speeds using specifications compatible with computers used by modern armed forces.

'Abd-al-Mun'im said that the new system is one of the world's most modern systems. It is an automatic digital system serving 22,500 subscribers and containing 14,000 trunk lines, he said.

With this network, he added, our Armed Forces moved from the traditional communications system to a modern system that is appropriate for the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century.

He said the new system serves several other automatic systems the Armed Forces are currently using. These are: the command, control, and fire administration system used by the Air Force and Air Defense Forces; the command and control system used by the Armed Forces General Command during operations; the command and control system used by the Armed Forces General Command routinely; and the drone control system. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Underlines Armed Forces' Role

NC1110090993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi has affirmed that Egypt's importance and influence on the regional and international levels and President Husni Mubarak's wise leadership and constant efforts to improve the economic situation encourage the big powers with superior technological capabilities to cooperate with Egypt in all fields.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published Monday [11 October], the defense minister said that the big powers are convinced that a strong Egypt will safeguard stability and security in the region and thus ensure the strategic interests of the various countries of the world.

He added that this year the Armed Forces will conduct joint training exercises with U.S. forces, noting that the Arab brothers have been invited to participate as observers in these exercises in preparation for their active participation in future exercises.

Regarding the Armed Forces' role in defending Egypt's internal and external national security, Field Marshal Tantawi said that the Armed Forces represent the last defense line in the face of terrorism. He affirmed that the Armed Forces, which is part of the Egyptian domestic fiber, cannot stay aloof regarding the threats facing this fiber.

The defense minister praised the considerable effort being made by the pertinent security services in dealing with the phenomena of terrorism with a view to containing and ending it. He expressed the hope that matters will not reach the point that requires a decision—which we hope we will not have to make—for the Armed Forces to intervene.

The defense minister affirmed that by virtue of its people's awareness, its wise leadership and cultural history, Egypt will remain an oasis of peace and security, and that the subversive elements and their supporters at home and abroad will not be able to derail democracy and development in Egypt.

Regarding dependence on local expertise in military industry, Field Marshal Tantawi said that various types of missiles as sophisticated as any produced in the world are produced locally to meet the requirements of the Armed Forces. The surplus is exported to the fraternal Arab and friendly states.

He referred in this regard to an armored vehicle which is currently being developed to match the most modern of its kind in the world. He also said that preparations are currently underway to produce amphibious vehicles in Egypt. The first Egyptian-made [words indistinct] A-1, which are considered the most modern main battle tanks in the world, have entered service.

The defense minister said that agreement has been reached on a project to jointly produce F-16 aircraft in

Egyptian factories in cooperation between the Arab military industries organization and the ministries of defense, war production, and industry.

Air Force Commander Views Modernization Plan

NC1110181993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1354 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Ahmad Nasr has stated that the fourth group of multi-purpose U.S. F-16's will arrive in Egypt early next year. The delivery of the third group of these aircraft will be completed by December, he added. He noted that the Apache anti-tank U.S. aircraft will arrive in March 1994 as part of a deal that includes 24 aircraft. He said that by early next year all of the 48 L-59 aircraft, which are advanced training aircraft that could also serve as fighter bombers and support aircraft, will be delivered.

Lt. Gen. Nasr made these remarks in an exclusive interview with MENA on the occasion of Air Force Day on 14 October. It marks the major air battle that took place in October 1973 involving 160 Egyptian and Israeli aircraft, during which the Egyptians shot down 18 Israeli aircraft.

The Air Force commander noted that there is a plan to modernize the Egyptian Air Force so that it can catch up with international advances in aircraft manufacturing and carry out its combat missions with high efficiency. He pointed out that the Air Force is now trying to acquire the advanced U.S. M-Ram [name as received] missile, a radar guided air-to-air missile that no other country has obtained yet.

He noted that the Air Force has acquired new weapons, such as the Hellfire missile for the Apache helicopters, the M-7 and the Supermagic-53 advanced air combat missiles, night vision instruments like the Base Finder [name as received], and modern satellite- operated navigation equipment. He pointed out that talks are now under way to discuss the fifth contract to supply F-16 fighters to replace those that will be scrapped.

The Air Force commander said that the modernization of the Air Force includes training pilots and technicians on updated equipment. The highly advanced training system known as the ACMI [initials as received] has been introduced to upgrade pilots' performance. This system, he added, is currently used in the United States and some advanced countries. He noted that a system to train pilots on the bombardment of ground targets without using live ammunition has also been introduced.

Lt. Gen. Nasr added that this year the Air Force will carry out a number of exercises with some friendly states, such as the United States, including Bright Star, Eagle Salute [name as received], and Iron Cobra. Training on refueling aircraft in mid-air will also be carried out, he added. He pointed out that as part of the cooperation with the United States the display screens of the early warning plane Hawkeye have been modernized.

Nasr said that overhaul and maintenance work on U.S. C-130 transport aircraft has been done in Egypt for the first time, in addition to the necessary maintenance work on their AS-6 engines as part of a plan to cut expenses in the Armed Forces and develop the military industry. He noted that overhaul work for this type of aircraft owned by other countries will be done in Egypt. He also pointed out that the overhaul work was done on the Sidewinder thermal missiles in Egypt, noting that maintenance and overhaul work on aircraft and missiles abroad used to cost the state a great deal.

Nasr said that certain alterations were done on U.S. pilotless planes so that the planes can be retrieved after they end their missions, whether they are electronic, television, or thermal reconnaissance missions or special operations to destroy radar or the planes are used for mock purposes or training.

Nasr said that next year the Air Force will build the second part of the command and control system that will link the various air bases and command centers on all levels. This will ensure tight defense of the Egyptian skies.

Nasr pointed out that certain spare parts for the U.S. F-16 jet fighters are currently manufactured in Egypt. In addition, overhaul and maintenance work of Mig-21 aircraft and M-8 helicopters is being done in Egypt. The aircraft is being developed to cope with various types of advanced aircraft.

Concluding his statement, Nasr said that as part of the efforts of the Armed Forces to defend our coasts and territorial waters, U.S. Beechcraft aircraft for electronic reconnaissance and naval control have been put into service, in addition to Sea King anti-submarine aircraft, to perform various tasks along the Egyptian coast.

Libya

Arab People's Conference Condemns Gaza-Jericho Plan

LD1110105493 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Oct (JANA)—The emergency pan-Arab meeting of the permanent secretariat of the Arab people's conference has issued a statement that says in part:

The permanent secretariat of the Arab people's conference held an emergency pan-Arab meeting on the dimensions and dangers to the Palestinian issue and the Arab nation of according recognition to the Zionist enemy in the light of the option of the so-called Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The meeting was attended by a number of the Arab forces, parties organizations and personalities. They discussed the current situation and the danger through which the Paelstinian issue and the Arab nation are passing at the moment after the signing of the so-called Gaza-Jericho agreement which has opened the door of

the official Arab collapse wide in front of normalizing relations with the Zionist enemy.

The conferees have stressed the following:

(1) Adherence to the pan-Arab nation's constants on Arab unity and liberation of the occupied territories and building a modern society based on democracy, socialism, and [respect for] human rights.

(2) Adherence to the Palestinian national constants which are included in the Palestinian national charter and the resolutions of the Palestinian national councils and the return of the Palestinian people to their national soil as a step along the road to liberating and establishing their national state.

(3) Continuation of the popular intifadah in occupied Palestine and developing its machinery to confront the new developments which had been imposed by the collection of documents in the so-called Gaza-Jericho agreement and its appendices.

(4) To back the Palestinian resistance and the struggle of the Palestinian people in all the forms of this struggle for the sake of foiling the agreement and enabling the Arab liberation movement to liberate Palestine.

(5) The dangers of the Zionist-imperialist reactionary scheme which aims to subjugate the Arab nation to the Zionist-imperialist will and of the grave deterioration in the Arab-Zionist conflict embodied in the so-called Gaza-Jericho agreement.

(6) The so-called Gaza-Jericho agreement and the concomitant recognition of the enemy harm the Palestinian and Arab struggle in the worst way, seek to turn the PLO into a mere political party and the territories occupied in the 1967 aggression into camps under Israeli sovereignty; this is an acceptance of arrangements that will not liberate one inch let alone achieve the enemy's withdrawal from lands where the so-called administrative self-rule will be established and that leaves decision-making in the hands of the Zionist enemy.

(7) The conflict with the Zionist enemy is one of existence not borders. It is a conflict between that enemy and the masses of the Arab nation which have offered all sorts of sacrifices for the liberation of Palestine and for the Palestinian people's freedom, right and homeland.

The conferees hailed the steadfastness of the Palestinian people inside and outside occupied Palestine, particularly the brave popular intifadah which is confronting the enemy and the Gaza-Jericho agreement of submission.

They called on all national and Islamic forces to join the Unified National Command of the intifadah, to struggle under its banner to bring down the Gaza-Jericho agreement of surrender, and to defeat the occupation and achieve the firm national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost among which its right to return, to self-determination and to the construction of its national independent state on its national soil.

The pan-Arab emergency conference also hailed the sacrifices of the Palestinian Arab people and of the steadfast Arab people in confronting the Zionist-imperialist reactionary aggression against Iraq, the Jamahiriyah, Somalia, and [words indistinct] to continue the Arab struggle. It reaffirmed its condemnation of the unjust embargo on the Jamahiriyah and Iraq and called on the Arab masses to exert pressure on their governments to force them to stop abiding by the unjust resolutions of the embargo.

Supports Libya on Lockerbie

LD1110120293 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Oct (JANA)—The participants in the pan-Arab emergency meeting of the permanent secretariat of the Arab people's conference which was held 9-10 October issued a statement in solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah in its confrontation with the policy of threat and warning which is pursued by the Western powers against it. Here is text of the statement:

The deliberate bid to escalate the measures and practice of the hostile policy of threat by America, Britain, and France against the Great Jamahiriyah by applying pressure on the members of the UN Security Council to issue a new baseless resolution like its previous one imposing an embargo on Libyan oil production to force Libya to hand over two of its citizens, suspected of being involved in the so-called "Lockerbie" incident, this bid represented a violation of sovereignty and stripping off the dignity of the Libyan Arab people and the entire Arab nation.

It is also considered a breach of all the international and national laws and conventions for no reason save for the fact that the Great Jamairiyah is an Arab country opposed to imperialism and zionism and a country that works and struggles for living free and a master over its soil and a country that strives to realize comprehensive Arab unity as a means of realizing freedom, progress, and Arab peace.

The participants in the emergency pan-Arab meeting of the permanent secretariat of the Arab people's conference while following with great concern the hostile and unjust measures which are being planned these days by the enemies of the Arab nation and which the UN Security Council issue, only prompts us to confirm the imperialist policy of policeman which is followed by America and its allies and followers in the area and they are trying to apply it to the gallant and steadfast people of the Great Jamahiriyah and impose the recognition of the zionist enemy in the so-called Gaza-Jericho agreement.

We call on all the membrs of the Arab liberation movment and all the political organizations, bodies, and trade unions in various parts of the Arab homeland and all the justice and peace-loving forces to stand alongside the people of the Great Jamahiriyah and support its civilized stand in the face of this imperialist alliance. We also call on them to raise their voices in solidarity with

the Libyan Arab people in its principled and firm stand against the imperialists and zionists.

We are called upon to make a strong and united stand in these grave times we are going through so as to terrorize the enemies of the Arab nation, of God and of peace and justice and to make them retreat in defeat before the voices of peoples, their wills and rights to freedom, peace, and prosperity.

We take the opportunity of this emergency meeting to praise the leading role of the Great Jamahiriyah and its unionist and pan-Arab leadership. A responsible stand in solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah should place a historic responsibility on it because acceptance of the fait accompli harms the Arab nation and destroys its interests. Let the Arab popular forces unite for liberation, unity, and progress.

AL-SHAMS Criticizes Foreign Liaison Secretariat

LD1110133293 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, 11 October, (JANA)—The newspaper AL-SHAMS stressed in its issue published today that the Libyan Foreign Ministry, by responding to foreign pressures thus has embarked on a blatant violation of human rights; it flouted the legal opinion which safeguards the rights of those who are under suspicion. It ignored the opinion of the defense [for the suspects].

AL-SHAMS said in an article entitled "The Libyan Foreign Ministry Is Violating Human Rights" it is as though the Libyan Foreign Ministry has premeditatedly decided to express interests other than our own, and as though the Libyan Foreign Ministry had savored the handing over of our reins to the West.

This is what the foreign liaison bureau has been doing: Easily responding to pressures at the expense of our acknowledged interests, values, principles, and conventions when engaged in international dealing. This is what it has been doing ever since the beginning of the so-called "Lockerbie crisis" and this is what it is doing these days.

The Foreign Ministry has acted on its own initiative and without authorization from anyone, on the fate of our sons who are unjustly and aggressively suspected of blowing up the American Pan Am plane.

It has confiscated the will of our people and declared to the international community without our "consent" its readiness to hand over our sons to America and the West. It lied to us when it said that the guarantees for fair interrogation had been provided.

The newspaper AL SHAMS added in its article: The statement of the lawyers in charge of defending the two suspects came as a real blow to the Foreign Liaison Secretariat, which the Secretariat deserves, because the statement stressed clearly that it was impossible under the existing media pressures to hold a fair trial. It also stressed that the two suspects did not face—and this is their most basic right—any evidence or proof on the basis of which they would appear for investigation and emphasized that the most basic guarantees and conditions for a fair trial were not provided for them.

The Libyan Foreign Liaison Secretariat, by ignoring all these precautions, in response to foreign pressures, has thus carried out a blatant violation of human rights, scorned the legal view protecting the rights of the two suspects, and ignored the opinion of their defense.

It is our right to be surprised after that to see that this Foreign Liaison Secretariat continues to have the mission of expressing the interests of our people and our sons in international meetings or speak in front of the world on our behalf.

Basic Rights Violations Claimed

LD1110195393 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Oct (JANA)—The Libyan Arab Committee for Human Rights has confirmed its support for a statement issued by lawyers of various nationalities, and states that it will continue to closely monitor any attempts aimed at harming the basic rights of those two civilians [defendants accused of Lockerbie bombing].

The statement says:

Various media circles have reported that the Jamahiriyah's Secretariat of People's Foreign Liason and International Cooperation issued a statement, saying it has no objection to the trial of the suspects in the Lockerbie case in either two countries—Britain or the United States—and has promised to urge them to do so.

The Libyan Arab Committee for Human Rights sees the position of the Secretariat of People's Foreign Liason and International Cooperation as being an abandonment and violation of current Libyan laws which categorically prohibit the state from handing over its civilians to a foreign country.

It also contradicts the conventions and charters of human rights and the rules of international law, which confirm a person's right to a fair and impartial trial. This is not possible in the countries concerned because of a wave of hostility and hysterical media campaigns on radio and television, and in newspapers against those two civilians. This is in addition to statements by some officials in these two countries which would make any trial in those states unjust and partial.

As the judicial systems in these two countries are faced with a pre-judgment of the two suspects, the Libyan Arab Committee for Human Rights denounces and categorically rejects the statement of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, and any other similar statements, because it is in violation of the effective laws, the bases of international law, and the

principles of human rights. In this context, the Committee urges all international, regional, and local committees, organizations and leagues which are concerned with human rights, to stand by it and to confront any attempt to undermine the basic lawful rights of the two citizens or to harm them, and to confront any measures or pressures that would lead to depriving them of defending themselves before a fair and honest court.

The Committee supports what was said in the statement issued by the suspects' lawyers, who belong to various nationalities, including lawyers from the two countries concerned.

While expressing surprise at and disapproval of the stance adopted by the Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau, the Libyan Arab Committee for Human Rights will continue to follow closely any attempts aimed at harming the basic rights of these two citizens, and it will cooperate with all human rights committees and organizations in the world for the sake of fully respecting human rights and the bases of international law.

Lockerbie Defense Lawyers Issue Statement

LD1010165393 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1425 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Oct (JANA)—The defense for brothers 'Abd-al-Basit Muhammad 'Ali al-Migrahi and al-Amin Khalifah Fahimah, issued a press statement at the end of its meeting today, the text of which follows:

The legal advisers for 'Abd-al-Basit Muhammad 'Ali al-Migrahi and al-Amin Khalifah Fahimah met in Tripoli to hold deliberations and consultations on 8 and 9 October. Some sessions were attended by 'Abd-al-Basit and al-Amin, who once more asserted, in the strongest terms, their innocence with regard to the accusations. Despite their right to remain in Libya, according to national and international law, they also declared their determination to appear for a fair trial after sound legal procedures and comprehensive investigations have been completed.

Legal advisers studied "the legal rights of the accused, i.e. the right to a fair trial before an impartial court," the right to the presumption of innocence, the right to be granted sufficient time to prepare their case after being notified not only of the charges but of the evidence, which the prosecutor wishes to present to support the charges. Within the context of these deliberations, grave concern was expressed over the possible damaging impact on the potential members of the jury of the preceding media trial in the United States and Scotland, also the refusal of the prosecuting authorities, in the absence of normal extradition procedures, to reveal the evidence which the authorities wish to rely on during any trial. This refusal gravely undermines the advisers' ability to prepare for case properly.

All these issues, and others, were discussed in a comprehensive manner, and advice was offered to 'Abd-al-Basit and al-Amin. It is understood that the advisers' deliberations and the advice given to 'Abd-al-Basit and al-Amin are confidential, as they constitute a matter of professional legal rights, and no further details, other than what had been mentioned in this memorandum, will be revealed.

The legal advisers pointed to a statement issued on behalf of the Libyan Government on 1 October which, among other things, said: "We are prepared to receive a group of Scottish legal experts to enable them to acquaint themselves with our efforts and hold a meeting with the two suspects, their families, and lawyers, and to participate also in the efforts to persuade the two accused to appear before a Scottish court."

This attempt by the Libyan Government to interfere in the advice given to the two men is completely unacceptable, the legal advisers said. Furthermore, according to normal and acceptable international legal practice, the advice to 'Abd-al-Basit and al-Amin was, and still is, that they should not contact third parties about the issue except through their legal advisers...[ellipses as received] particularly since arrest orders were issued by the judicial authorities in the United States and Great Britain. It is neither sound nor ethical that there should be any direct contact by the prosecuting authorities or their governments or agents with either 'Abd-al-Basit or al-Amin.

The legal advisers wish to stress that they represent 'Abd-al-Basit and al-Amin and do not represent Libya, and in their efforts to carry out their duties professional ethics dictate that any advice they may give to their clients must be aimed at protecting their clients' personal and individual interests and their legal rights... [ellipses as received]

On the basis of the decisions made at the meetings of the legal advisers and their clients....[ellipses as received] the legal advisers intend in the near future to contact the UK Foreign Office and U.S. State Department to discuss subsequent developments.

Tripoli, 10 October

Chance for Fair Trial of Libyans in Scotland Viewed

LD1110135493 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1140 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Last June, the British Court of Appeal found two women innocent of the charge against them on the grounds that the media coverage which accompanied the trial made it impossible for the two women to receive a fair trial because it was impossible for members of the jury not to be influenced by newspaper reports. [passage omitted]. THE OBSERVER emphasized that the verdict passed by the judge at the criminal court in London showed clearly that the intensive media coverage of the case brought the principle of a fair trial into disrepute. Therefore, the Libyan lawyers have the right to say that the British media have passed judgement in advance on their clients, and this would

have a negative effect on their case. The paper added that the judge's view could also be applied to the two Libyans. [passage omitted]

JANA Editor on UN Secretary General's Role

LD1010204493 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali made statements to the newspapers in which he said that he awaits Libya's reply to accepting the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution.

The commentator on international affairs at JANA remarked, saying that one of the things that should be affirmed regarding these statements, is that what Butrus-Ghali should do first is be a UN secretary general and not merely the Western powers' postman. He should also shoulder the responsibilities and powers that were entrusted to him by the United Nations and not do what America, Britain, and France ask of him.

The evidence of this is that the Security Council had devoted an article in its Resolution No. 731 to this.

He did not do any thing toward this task which he was entrusted to do. The role of Butrus-Ghali as a UN secretary general, is that he should propose solutions which can be debated, and the states afterward implement them and abide by them. His role should not be to convey to us, for example, what America says or what Britain says. This is not his role.

Sudan

Rebels Agree To 'Unconditional' Negotiations

EA1110165293 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Abdullah Deng Nhial, minister of peace and rehabilitation, has told a meeting attended by leaders of political, united, and popular action in Sinjah town [Blue Nile province] that the revolution's seriousness has motivated the rebels to agree to unconditional negotiations for the first time. He said the war threatened national unity, and the Nairobi negotiations had a clear program. He said rebel Garang had exploited the issue of human rights as another lever to gain foreign political support in order to distort the root of the issue. His excellency praised the peace initiative of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. He said his ministry was working to develop the liberated areas in the south now that peace and security had been re-established there.

Government, SPLA Faction Meet

AB1110172393 Paris AFP in English 1534 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 11 (AFP)—A Sudanese government delegation and a team from a breakaway faction of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) recently held talks in Bentiu, in south Sudan's Upper Nile state, state-run television reported. The government side was led by the rapporteur of the peace committee in the transitional national assembly, Mousa Sidahmed, while the SPLA-United faction delegation was headed by Jastine Atem.

The television late Sunday [10 October] showed pictures of Sidahmed speaking at a gathering at Bentiu after emerging from the meeting. Sidahmed described as "successful" his meeting with Atem which he said had discussed all peace issues that have been on the agenda in the fourth round of peace talks.

The two sides agreed on the need for maintaining peace and stability in the Bentiu area and on leaving the door open to dialogue both inside the Sudan and abroad. Sidahmed added that they also agreed that the sole option for resolving the south Sudan question was a peaceful settlement.

The SPLA-United has broken away from the mainstream SPLA of Colonel John Garang, which has been fighting since 1983 for an end to domination of mainly Christian and animist south Sudan by the Islamic north.

This meeting was not announced in advance nor was it covered by the local media, except for the report carried by the television which did not say exactly when it took place.

As for negotiations with Garang's SPLA, it has been announced that a four-member East African committee chaired by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi and comprising the presidents of Ethiopia, Uganda and Eritrea is making arrangements to have the two sides sit down together.

The Sudanese government has also invited U.S. former President Jimmy Carter to visit Sudan. Carter has reportedly accepted the invitation and will consider resuming a good offices mission between the government and the SPLA.

Further on Peace Talks

EA1110200693 Khartoum SUNA in English 1605 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Oct (SUNA)—Government and united rebel movement delegations have agreed to continue direct dialogue inside the Sudan to achieve comprehensive peace in the country through the current initiatives. An official source at the peace committee of the Transitional National Assembly, TNA, announced that the government delegation met recently with the rebel movement in Bentiu, Upper Nile state.

Both sides stressed adherence to pushing forward the peace process by opening the way for transport of food, clothes, and the opening of schools in order to create an atmosphere for lasting peace in the country, the source added.

The government delegation was chaired by the rapporteur of the peace committee, Isa Sayyid Ahmad, while the united rebel movement delegation was chaired by Samuel Faustino Atem.

Al-Bashir Addresses Troops in Khartoum

EA0810185593 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, stated that the Sudanese people have risen to the level of the challenge. He pointed to their voluntary rush to training centers for the people's defense, in order to support the Armed Forces—which in the past had fought on their own—offering sacrifices and martyrs in defense of the people, their faith, and security. He stated this yesterday in an address to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Khartoum North Military Zone.

His excellency said that the values and ethics of the Sudanese people had qualified them to restore the glory of the Muslim state—which was built on sacrifices and self-denial—and founded on the complete faith of the earliest Muslims who challenged the two greatest empires of that time and became masters of the world through faith, science, and the call to justice. His excellency stressed that victory would be the ally of the fighting believers but, he said, this would not materialize without adversities and the paying of a high price. He stated: The suffering we are experiencing today is no more than an ordeal to test the faith in our hearts, until we become a nation capable of carrying the message and delivering it.

Al-Bashir Says Problem in South Political

EA1110123193 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has said that the problem in the south is a political one and must be solved politically through negotiations and discussions. He said the role of the Armed Forces in the south is to provide peace and stability for the citizens and those returning from the hell of the rebellion. He said this today when he met Algerian journalist Sadiq Abu-Qatawi in the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers.

The meeting dealt with the developments and achievements of the revolution, which has made consultation [shura] its principle in settling problems. People of different points of view and various types of expertise have taken part in these consultations.

The journalist said that the meeting touched on Sudan's relations with other countries, both at the level of neighboring countries as well as at the Arab and international levels, in light of the current international changes.

Lifting of South Africa Boycott Approved

EA1110131193 Khartoum SUNA in English 0942 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 11 Oct (SUNA)—The Council of Ministers has briefed in its regular session the chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] on the plan of the Ministry of Social Planning aimed for mobilizing the people and establishing a healthy society. The Council of Ministers also has approved a draft law of cancelling the law of boycott imposed against South Africa for the year 1993, provided that it was to be issued by provisional decree. [passage omitted]

Official Views Islamic Course, U.S. 'Assault'

EA1110171093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the minister of state at the office of the president of the republic, has said Sudan will not retreat from its Islamic and cultural course and that the assault against Sudan in this context will only serve to make it adhere to its principles more forcefully. He said Sudan rejected all forms of foreign intervention in its independent decisions. Speaking today at the SUNA forum, his excellency added that the United States' attempt to use various pretexts to impose its hegemony over peoples had to be firmly resisted.

Dr. Ghazi described the unfair campaigns and charges against Sudan, under the umbrella of human rights and the sponsorship of terrorism, as patched up lies and not corroborated by any evidence. He said the U.S. decision to list Sudan among the countries the United States claimed to be sponsoring terrorism was motivated by a self-centered regard for U.S. interests and seen as a way of putting pressure on Sudan.

He said the revolution's proposals and policies were not declarations of hostility to any state in the world. He stressed Sudan was ready to engage in a dialogue with the United States. Dr. Ghazi also referred to former President Carter's statements, in which he said the United States was obsessed by its hostility to Islam.

Interviewed on U.S. Policies

PM1110085393 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Oct 93 p 7

[Interview with Dr. Ghazi Salah-al-Din, Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs, by I'tidal Salamah in Bonn; date not given]

[Text] [Salamah] What do you expect from former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's initiative? Was it the result of his recent visit to Khartoum?

[Salah-al-Din] I believe that Carter's frequent visits to Sudan, including the recent visit, have resulted in convincing him that all that is being said and rumored about our country and its evil orientations is untrue. And as he

said, he dealt with the leaders in Khartoum and found that they respect general human values.

With regard to his initiative, we raised the issue of the south with all neutral quarters in order to help us to solve this problem. We have now left the problem to Kenyan President (Daniel) arap Moi and the presidents of Uganda, Ethiopia, and Eritrea. But we have contacts with Carter and other parties concerned with this initiative to consult about the possibility of contributing to solving the problem and holding the negotiations.

[Salamah] So can it be said that the negotiations—as has been reported—will be moved from Nairobi to Atlanta?

[Salah-al-Din] I believe it is too early to reach such a verdict. By nature we prefer not to move the negotiations away from Sudanese territory. This is why we asked former Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida to hold a round of negotiations in Nigeria, which has an experience similar to ours and a similar history. Officially, the initiative now is President Moi's. And there is no talk about moving the initiative to another place.

[Salamah] So you do not approve of Carter's initiative?

[Salah-al-Din] Yes. President Moi's initiative is official and was announced at the Ethiopia conference, and we are committed to it. However, as I said, we asked any parties that have influence over the rebel movement to help to achieve progress in the negotiations.

[Salamah] How do you view the present U.S. position after Secretary of State Warren Christopher's statements? Will it lead to easing the pressure on you?

[Salah-al-Din] What do you mean by easing the pressure? We of the Sudanese Government have not been affected by the U.S. decision to include Sudan on the so-called terrorism list. This decision did not affect us but, rather, angered us. The second thing, as the official spokesman for the State Department said, ridiculing the other peoples, is that Washington wants to isolate Sudan from the civilized nations. But we do not feel isolated at all. In fact we are surrounded by a vast environment of Arab and African sympathy.

[Salamah] But there is almost Arab isolation?

[Salah-al-Din] There is a general dispute involving the Arab world as a whole, and we cannot talk about isolation, otherwise with I could use the same argument to describe any Arab state alleging that Sudan is isolated.

Of course, Sudan has not got strong media like some Arab and Western states, but we do not feel alone or isolated. There are traditional economic relations between us and all the Arab states around us; with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with Egypt, with Syria, with Jordan, and with Yemen. Relations with the Kingdom is stable and our relations with Egypt have improved since the (African) summit conference in Cairo. The same applies to Syria and Yemen. And we are trying to build a relationship with Qatar soon.

[Salamah] But you also need relations with the Western world?

[Salah-al-Din] The Western world is prejudiced toward Sudan. It does not want a country that rules itself—which is unacceptable to us. We do not believe that the world's doors will be closed to us if we do not improve our relations with the West. However, we do not want a confrontation with it, nor do we want a conflict between our two cultures. If the West wants to close its doors, let it know that the doors are open to us in the Arab world and the Far East.

[Salamah] How would you assess what happened during the conference of the IMF and the World Bank?

[Salah-al-Din] The United States—through its hostility toward Sudan—secured a decision freezing its right to vote. We challenged the United States and those in charge of the IMF, as we stressed that our government is the only government that has applied measures to liberalize the economy—measures which other Arab and African states currently facing obstacles in the IMF and the institutions associated with it have not applied. We are the only Sudanese Government that has offered to pay part of its previous debts to the international establishments.

Through its political pressure, the United States managed to push the establishments to reject our request to pay part of the debts. We believe that this decision is primarily political. Washington exerted pressure on many states inside the IMF to get them to vote against Sudan. It began to pursue this policy a year ago—that is, since proposing the plan to condemn Sudan in New York and then Geneva on the pretext of its violation of human rights. But there are states that stood by us on the basis of the objective criteria on which such decisions should be based. I mention, for example, France, Mexico, and Zambia.

[Salamah] Eyes are now focused on domestic conditions in Sudan in view of the inflation and the deterioration in the currency's value. Do you not believe that this poses a threat to the Sudanese economy?

[Salah-al-Din] The inflation and the deterioration in the currency's value is a direct result of the extensive development process we are implementing. It is an attempt to build an economic policy for self-sufficiency. Sudan has proved to the world that it now has the ability to shoulder the responsibility for its capabilities, destiny, and even petroleum substances which used to to come as grants from outside. As a result of this success, it is prepared to withstand and accept the side effects.

[Salamah] But these side effects have caused Sudan to be unable to import sufficient quantities of essential materials like oil and fuel—which was reflected in successive crises.

[Salah-al-Din] That problem comes and goes; it is not new. It is a reality with which we have been dealing for two years. It has not occurred just today. We are a state experiencing exceptional conditions: War in the south

and international hostile attempts from influential forces. However, we have managed to surmount this situation.

We accept the challenge, and all I can say and prove by statistics, as has been proved by international establishments, is that the Sudanese economy is growing rapidly.

Commentary Questions 'Sincerity' of Clinton

EA0910093093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Commentary by Khalid Mustafa]

[Text] Sudan is working for the establishment of good and open relations with all countries of the world on the basis of its deep-rooted course, which enshrines dialogue as an Islamic ethic for the elimination of obstacles that stand as stumbling blocks in dealings with others. Sudan aspires to dialogue on the basis of mutual respect and nonintervention in other states' internal affairs.

It is within this framework that U.S. President Bill Clinton received the credentials of Sudan's new ambassador to his country. President Clinton spoke about rising above differences between Sudan and America.

When receiving the credentials of Ambassador Ahmad Sulayman as Sudan's ambassador to his country, U.S. President Bill Clinton called for the removal of differences between Sudan and the United States. He said that it was very regrettable that there should now be serious problems between the two countries. These remarks by the U.S. President represent an acceptance of reality at a time when Sudanese-American relations have seen a great deterioration and visible collapse. However, an observer of the stages of this deterioration will note with complete clarity that the United States was the one which brought relations to this level.

Sudan has stressed time and again its serious interest in establishing good relations with all the peoples of the world, provided that these relations are founded on mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs. The cultural course followed by Sudan invites it to be open to the world and to extend bridges of cooperation and confidence to all under circumstances which provide for respect and appreciation. The revolutionary government has striven sincerely to follow this course and extend its beneficent hand towards all. It has succeeded in winning the respect of many states and establishing strong relations, particularly with neighboring states.

However, the United States has persisted ever since the National Salvation Revolution took over the reins of government in the country, in addressing accusations and coordinating allegations against Sudan for no other reason except that Sudan has chosen the path of freedom and independence, relying on itself and independent in its decisions in matters of its own. Although the United States relies in some of its arguments against Sudan on what it calls the principles of dealing with governments in the world, observers will not fault the U.S. Administration's dealings with some governments which are not committed to those principles. [sentence as heard] Indeed, U.S. dealings and cooperation extend to countries that are farthest from what the United States lays down as its standards.

This clearly shows the double standards of the United States and its reliance on the commitment of existing regimes in the world to be subservient and subordinate to the United States above all others. This is in spite of the fact that the U.S. President said when receiving the credentials of the Sudanese ambassador in Washington that the United States does not harbor any hostility toward Islam. He admitted that his country looks at Islam as a historical and cultural force that even influenced European civilization. He denied that the Islamic orientation of the National Salvation Revolution was affecting relations between the United States and Sudan.

All this does not necessarily mean the sincerity of what was asserted by U.S. President Clinton. All the evidence shows that the stands adopted by the United States against Sudan and its invitation to other states to be hostile to it clearly indicate that the United States has not been sincere in its dealings with Sudan. The arguments it has relied on to escalate the hostility against Sudan were all flimsy and not based on palpable facts. Its accusations have brought extensive criticism not only from the Sudanese people, who have come out in demonstrations denouncing them, but from different peoples, Arab and African organizations, and even from some officials of previous U.S. Administrations.

On the basis of this, if President Bill Clinton's administration really wants to remove the differences between it and Sudan and if Clinton is sincere in what he has called for, then the road to this has to be through respect for the Sudanese people's will and their cultural option without interference. The United States must deal with Sudan, the owner of its own independent decision and its free course. The United States must evaluate what is going on in Sudan with the eye of an objective person seeking the truth. It should not shut its eyes to the sincere efforts going on in the country to bring about peace and the continuous sacrifices to effect development and awakening. The United States should not ignore the revolution's serious steps toward handing over power to the masses and transferring it through the political system that has been accepted by the country and that will achieve greater democracy than that claimed by western regimes.

Finally, Sudan has no interest in being hostile toward anyone. However, it will not abandon its options and course simply to win the friendship of any quarter whatsoever. Respect for its options and course can be a safe entry toward the establishment of good relations not marred by any of the differences which Clinton called to be removed.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Holds Talks With Malian President

LD0710143093 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held talks this morning with Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare. The presidential spokesman has stated that the two presidents have reviewed bilateral relations—which are being continuously strengthened at the various levels—the development of bilateral cooperation in the economic and technical fields. In addition, they have reviewed the prospects for promoting cooperation in the field of partnership, reinforcing and diversifying trade exchanges, and the diversification and intensification of visits by delegations from the two countries. [passage omitted]

The presidential spokesman also said that Ben Ali and Konare had touched upon the peace process in the Middle East, particularly after the recent Palestinian-Israeli accord, stressing the importance of this step in underpinning the chances of security, peace, and stability. The two presidents have stressed the significance of the next stage regarding the establishment of a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the region, especially with regard to enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights and to make progress in other tracks of the peace negotiations.

Holds Further Talks, Departs

LD0810193893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had talks again this morning at Carthage Palace with Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare. The official spokesman for the presidency said that the talks focused on means of developing bilateral cooperation and promoting it to the level of the solid historical ties which link the Tunisian and Malian peoples. He indicated that within this context, the two presidents reviewed the results of the meetings of the two countries' delegations and expressed their satisfaction at the promising prospects for cooperation between Tunisia and Mali.

He added that the two presidents also reviewed regional and international issues of mutual concern and stressed the need to support efforts to limit the dangers resulting from tension in some regions of the African continent, especially in Somalia. They also discussed the need to support African endeavors and solidarity to deal with issues of cooperation and development in order to provide suitable conditions for improving the situation of the peoples of the continent. [passage omitted]

Joint Communique Issued

LD0910195093 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Following the official visit by Malian President Alpha Oumer Konare to our country, a joint communique was issued. It said: The visit has enabled the two heads of state to conduct friendly and fraternal talks, which highlighted the point of view concerning the prospects for bilateral relations and the most important current issues at African and international levels. The two heads of state expressed total satisfaction with the development recorded at the level of bilateral relations since the meeting of the Supreme Joint Tunisian-Malian Commission in Bamako on 1 and 2 June 1992. In this connection, they stressed the deep-rooted historic ties between the Tunisian and Malian peoples, reaffirming anew their common belief in and their firm attachment to the African solidarity and the principles of the OAU and the UN. In addition to expressing their satisfaction with the standard of cooperation between the two countries the two heads of state reaffirmed the will to do more to expand this cooperation so that it will encompass all spheres of common interest, and to raise this to the level of the excellent political relations that exist between the two countries.

On this occasion President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali expressed his appreciation for the role being played by President Alpha Oumer Konare in bolstering national unity within the framework of the national charter signed on 11 April 1992, and which aims at guaranteeing the security, safety, and development of Mali.

President Alpha Oumer Konare for his part saluted the distinguished democratic experiment in Tunisia since the 7 November transformation, stressing the major gains that have been realized by the wise and far-sighted policy of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in the political, economic, and social fields, and particularly with regard to human rights and the social [words indistinct].

When referring to the situation in the African continent, the two presidents expressed their satisfaction with the deep and positive development being witnessed by South Africa. They expressed their deep concern over the continuation of the hotbeds of tension in the African continent, especially because they threaten security and stability in many areas of the continent and constitute an obstruction for the efforts being made by the African peoples struggling for the realization of comprehensive development. They called on the parties concerned to uphold the spirit of dialogue and negotiations in an aim to put a final end to these conflicts. The two heads of state during their talks touched upon the difficult economic situation of the African continent resulting from the increasing aggravation of the debts and the great deterioration of the condition of [word indistinct], in addition to the scarcity of financial revenues earmarked for the development projects in the African countries.

The two presidents called on the international community to make a plan to realize a new economic upsurge in Africa on the basis of joint development.

When dealing with the situation in the Middle East, the two heads of state expressed their satisfaction with the signing by the PLO and Israel in Washington of the Gaza-Jericho agreement and called on the international community to support this process because it is an important stage, and by way of stressing the national rights of the Palestinian people and the return of all the occupied Arab territories in accordance with the UN resolutions.

In conclusion of his official visit to Tunisia, President Alpha Oumer Konare expressed his thanks and gratitude for President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the Tunisian people and Government for the warm reception and welcome he and the delegation accompanying him received. He extended an invitation to pay an official visit to the Republic of Mali. The president of the republic has accepted this inviiaition. The date of the visit will be fixed in due course.

GCC Chiefs of Staff Hold Meeting in Abu Dhabi

JN1210121993 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Staff Major General Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the chief of staff, opened the 11th meeting of the chiefs of staff of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states at the Abu Dhabi Intercontinental Hotel this morning. His Excellency Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi, the secretary general of the GCC, attended the meeting.

His Highness Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan delivered a speech in which he welcomed the chiefs of staff and stressed that the great tasks entrusted to the armed forces of the GCC member states dictate intensive efforts to ensure further cooperation and coordination so that the armed forces will attain an appropriate level in today's world. Concluding, he said he hoped the meeting will result in further accomplishments in the interest of the people.

Attending the meeting were Staff Major General Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Salman Bin-Khalid Al Khalifah, the Bahraini chief of staff; His Excellency Staff General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, the Saudi chief of staff; Staff Lieutenant General Khamis Bin-Humayd al-Kalbani, the Omani chief of staff; Staff Major General Muhammad Rashid Shar'an al-Khayarin, the Qatari chief of staff; and Staff Major General 'Ali Muhammad al-Mu'min, the Kuwaiti chief of staff. Staff Major General Yusuf Muhammad al-Madani, the chairman of the GCC military committee; senior army officers, and the GCC ambassadors to the United Arab Emirates also attended the meeting.

Kuwait

Border Post Under 'Intense Gunfire' From Iraq

NC0910120993 Paris AFP in English 1132 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Kuwait City, Oct 9 (AFP)—A Kuwaiti border post came under intense gunfire from Iraq this week, an Interior Ministry official said Saturday [9 October].

"They were probably shots from Iraqi soldiers" in the incident on Thursday, the official said on condition of anonymity.

He said Kuwaiti forces suffered no casualties and returned fire.

There was no immediate confirmation of the incident at al-A'zamiyah from U.N. forces monitoring the border with Iraq, which refuses to recognize boundaries drawn since the 1991 Gulf War.

Kuwait has issued many complaints of gun attacks from Iraq. On September 28 it said Iraqis fired at a border post at Um Sidir.

Iranian Envoy on Amir's Visit, Gaza-Jericho Agreement

LD0910100293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0816 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Oct (KUNA)—Hoseyn Sadeqi-Chahardangeh, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Kuwait, has described the expected visit of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, the amir of the State of Kuwait, to Iran at the invitation of Islamic Republic President Hashemi-Rafsanjani as a turning point in the developing relations between the two countries and the situation in the region as a whole. In a statement published today by the Kuwaiti paper AL-RA'Y AL-AMM', the Iranian ambassador said that this visit could make a positive transformation in relations, serving the two countries' supreme interests and having beneficial results on bilateral relations and the situation in the region in the short term. This visit, if it takes place, will be the first visit by the amir of Kuwait to Iran since the Islamic revolution.

On the repeated reports that Western pressure has been brought to bear on Iran not to obstruct the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Ambassador Sadeqi pointed out that Iran's principled policy as declared by Iranian officials opposes any agreement which does not take into account the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He added that it is the right of Iran as an independent state to express its points of view and that Iran believes this agreement is incapable of establishing a just and permanent peace in the region.

Yemen

Basindwah Addresses UN General Assembly 8 Oct

JN0810205693 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah today delivered our country's speech to the 48th session of the UN General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York. The speech dealt with the developments that have taken place in our country since the homeland's unity on 22 May 1990. It noted that unity has been accompanied by democratization on the basis of political and party pluralism. He said this process culminated in the holding of the first free, direct, and fair general elections on 27 April 1993. He also referred to our country's losses as a result of the second Gulf crisis.

The foreign minister said that, as ever, the Republic of Yemen will continue to oppose the use of force to settle differences between countries. He said that Yemen strongly rejects the seizure of others' territories by force. Therefore, he said, Yemen's stand on fraternal Kuwait has not changed and will never change. He stressed: We consider Kuwait a sovereign state that is part of no other state. He indicated that the Iraqi Government's response so far with international resolutions, especially recently, calls for optimism and requires a reconsideration of the imposed sanctions. He noted that guaranteeing Kuwait's

safety, independence, and sovereignty in a permanent, constant, and final manner can only be achieved when a bilateral agreement satisfactory to both sides is reached, and unless all Arab countries and the international community in general pledge to guarantee that this agreement is being committed to and respected by both states.

Salih Interviewed on Internal Politics, Foreign Ties

PM0810150093 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 4-10 Oct 93 pp11-14

[Interview with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Faysal Jallul in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Jallul] How can the problems of democracy be solved in Yemen? Are differences settled through numerical majority in parliament and similar institutions, through tradition and reconciliation, or through a combination of commitment to the constitution and to tradition?

[Salih] Dialogue is essential. It is the ideal way to tackle such problems. Dependence on parliamentary majority is one solution, that is in addition to the legislative and constitutional institutions which constitute the main authorities as elected institutions. We should uphold the right of the majority and respect the position of the minority but matters are decided on the basis of majority. That is the sound democratic principle. Add to that the reconciliation of views and dialogue as an option, provided it places national interests above all other considerations.

We believe that any agreement outside the framework of the legitimate institutions and any disregard for the majority would mean marginalizing legitimacy, democracy, and the rights of the people who elected their representatives in the legislative institutions by free direct ballot. [passage omitted]

[Jallul] Some people believe that the solution to the current differences regarding the Presidential Council lie in extension of the Council's term if the required constitutional amendments cannot be passed. Do you see anything positive about that solution?

[Salih] We hope to introduce amendments that would clearly define the responsibilities and jurisdictions so that every institution would be able to play its constitutional and political part at all levels, because the method of collective leadership is a proven failure.

Collective leadership is a tradition of communist parties and totalitarian regimes. That kind of leadership has proved its failure not only in Yemen but worldwide. We believe that in a democratic regime where the people rule themselves through the legislative authority which is the main authority. [passage omitted]

[Jallul] So you are not in favor of extending the Presidential Council's term?

[Salih] There are two options. Either we keep the present Constitution and elect a new presidential council on the basis of that Constitution or we introduce amendments and elect a president of the republic. [passage omitted]

[Jallul] Do you expect the vice president to return from Aden soon to attend the (14 October) revolution anniversary celebrations?

[Salih] That, by God, is a matter that concerns the brothers in the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP]. It is up to them. We deal with institutions and with the YSP leadership. It is up to them in the YSP leadership.

[Jallul] How do you view the "self-seclusion method"? It seems that every time the vice president has done that, he has achieved his objectives.

[Salih] This is not the first time he has stayed away. This is more or less the third time. There are no personal differences between me and brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council. Some people perhaps think that by staying away they can achieve results. So the serial might continue (in the future).

[Jallul] As you know, there have been some promotions in the Army. The chief of staff has called them "indiscriminate" while others have seen them as promotions and counterpromotions. This issue has become a topic debated by people in the streets, not just within the highest authority.

[Salih] That was one of the negative things that have occurred. A political decision has been issued providing for the reinstatement of all those dismissed from the Army for political reasons, and they were indeed reinstated in accordance with that decision. The mistake was that they were credited for the period they were in service just as if they had served that period in the Army and they were promoted just like those who have been on active service. That created a discrepancy in the military establishment and the forces operating within the Army. Some felt that it was unfair that those who had been out of the service for a period of time were receiving equal salaries to themselves. That is why the Defense Ministry decided to promote those who had remained in service. That is what caused this anomaly in the military establishment, but we are about to correct these mistakes and rebuild the Armed Forces on a national, scientific, and sound basis and criteria.

[Jallul] You said in a press statement that the Army would be unified before the end of this year as scheduled [reference to the Armies of the former north and south Yemeni republics]. How could the Army merger take place before the problems within it are solved?

[Salih] That was not a statement by me. It was a program submitted to parliament by the tripartite coalition government providing for a move to complete unification in the coming months.

[Jallul] Do you expect the Army to be unified by the end of the year?

[Salih] We have long been looking forward to completing the unification process. It is up to the coalition government and depends on how serious it is about this. [passage omitted]

[Jallul] You have received a message from King Husayn and the vice president has received a similar message. It is rumored that the messages had something to do with mediation to resolve current differences.

[Salih] The message basically dealth with bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries but it seems that His Majesty King Husayn had heard that there were differences of opinion between the coalition parties. That is why a representative of King Husayn met with brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid in Aden. I believe that the meeting was held to contain and prevent escalation of the dispute and to hold a dialogue between the coalition parties.

[Jallul] Do you bless that endeavor?

[Salih] Of course we bless it. It is a good endeavor and we highly appreciate King Husayn's commendable effort. [passage omitted]

[Jallul] We hear some talk about corruption in Sanaa. All parties talk about that. Since everyone is talking about corruption, including the General People's Congress [GPC] and the YSP, what is the source of the corruption?

[Salih] All the parties talk about corruption because everyone wants to avoid being implicated or rather accused of corruption. Everyone talks about corruption but the honest and patriotic forces lie in wait and they know where the corruption is and who are the corrupt people. Regrettably, the corrupt have used their parties as a protective umbrella. So if a corrupt person is a member of the GPC, the YSP, or any other party and is made accountable, that would be seen as a move against one party in favor of another.

[Jallul] As representative of the authority which is supposed to be above the blocs linked to corruption, do you have a plan to fight corruption wherever it may be?

[Salih] We have a plan to combat corruption but it will not be effective unless the political will is unified and powers and responsibilities clearly defined. That is why I have sponsored the constitutional amendments. [passage omitted]

[Jallul] On my way to see you I noticed a demonstration in front of the cahinet premises by students who want to go to university but cannot find places. That is a problem for Sanaa University. What is the remedy for that?

[Salih] Our universities are operating at full capacity but do not forget that there is a population explosion and a student explosion in this country. The government is supposed to make prior plans for absorbing students wishing to go to universities and institutes before the end of the year. One of the negative aspects is that there were no such plans in the past for absorbing such great numbers of students interested in going to university. That has now embarrassed the government.

We believe that the government must shoulder the responsibility of absorbing these students in the universities, institutes, and schools and finding vacancies for them. It should concentrate on intermediate studies and technical studies in general to meet development requirements. [passage omitted]

[Jallul] Incidents have occurred at various times and have been described in the press as being of fundamentalist nature and attributed by some to the al-Jihad Organization and by others to "Afghan" Yemenis.

[Salih] What has been said in this connection is part of an unjust campaign by people who grudge Yemen's unity and democracy. People involved in these incidents in our country are few in number. Like other societies, ours is a safe one where incidents of that kind occur sometimes. The claim that these incidents which occurred in Yemen were perpetrated by "Afghan" Yemenis is untrue. Some people had gone to Afghanistan for the jihad and they were assisted by some fraternal states and some Western states such as the United States at a time when those states were urging Islamic movements to join the jihad in Afghanistan against the communist tide. They used that trend for a period of time but when they no longer had any use for these people they called them terrorists.

We are against all acts of violence, terrorism, and subversion by any source. Some local and foreign papers have, regrettably, started spreading rumors about the presence of "Afghan Yemenis." They are not true. Yemen is well known. It is the country of faith and wisdom and it has taken the banner of Islam to the ends of the earth. We do not need anyone to struggle for Islam in our country. The claims about jihad and Afghans are untrue. Leftist forces known for their extremism are trying to categorize society into seculars, rightists, and Islamic extremists. We do not accept that categorization. We reject extremism from any party or direction be it the extreme right, the extreme left, or anything else.

[Jallul] An Amnesty International report mentioned violation of human rights in your country, and spoke of prisoners held for expressing their views, and of political prisoners still detained since before the unity.

[Salih] Some extremist leftist forces, which still have not gotten rid of their old habits, are still, most regrettably, saying such things to smear Yemen's image by talking about the existence of political prisoners. We emphasize that there are no political prisoners in our country. We have invited international organizations concerned with human rights. Representatives of numerous organizations have come to Yemen and they saw for themselves that there are no political prisoners in Yemen. There is the case of prisoner Mansur Rajih who, it has been claimed, is in prison for expressing his views. The truth is that he is a criminal prisoner described as a political prisoner because he was once a member of the National Front. We find that some extremist members of the YSP

leak such reports, claiming that he is a political prisoner, but that is not true. He has court convictions for crimes he committed and he was jailed in connection with a criminal case.

[Jallul] There has been talk of the return of former Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to Sanaa. Will you again invite him to return to Sanaa?

[Salih] He does not need any invitation. He is like any other Yemeni citizen and has a right to return any time he likes. [passage omitted]

[Jallul] What, in your estimation, is the size of the Jewish community in Yemen?

[Salih] In my view, the number of Yemeni Jews is not more than 300 or 400. They are treated as Yemeni citizens with all the political rights including the right to travel and return. They travel and come back to their homeland. Some of them stay abroad. They are Yemeni citizens and have the rights and duties of citizens according to the Constitution.

[Jallul] Some oil companies are having difficulties in their relations with the locals?

[Salih] That is not true. There are no difficulties or problems between the citizens and the companies. On the contrary, all citizens cooperate to protect the activities of the companies, perhaps even more so than the security and Army organs do. The Yemeni people are eager to provide security for the investors and companies operating in our country.

[Jallul] Do you believe that Yemeni-Omani relations are the gate to the normalization of relations with the rest of the Gulf states?

[Salih] We consider Yemeni-Omani relations to be special and a model for inter-Arab relations. They suffered no cracks during or after the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

[Jallul] French President Francois Mitterrand will visit you 18-19 October. It will be the first visit by a French president to Yemen. How do you view relations with France?

[Salih] There is good cooperation between us and France. President Mitterrand's visit will certainly enahnce bilateral relations and mutual interests, particularly as there are French investments in Yemen through oil companies. The visit will certainly enhance and strengthen French-Yemeni relations.

[Jallul] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is known to have been in the habit of consulting you on issues related to the Palestinian cause because of the Palestinian presence in Yemen and because of the personal relations. Did he consult you on the Gaza-Jericho agreement?

[Salih] We only knew about the agreements reached and the negotiations held just weeks before the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement in Washington. We had no prior knowledge of that because it was all done in complete secrecy. We were as surprised as the whole world but we support the Palestinian people's choice when it comes to the settlement of their problem.

[Jallul] Do you have any serious problems with the World Bank? Some leftist and other papers have mentioned terms imposed on you by the World Bank.

[Salih] Some leftist papers and irresponsible figures are trying to undermine Yemen's reputation in respect of its foreign dealings, be it with the World Bank or others. As I understand it, the World Bank has given Yemen some facilities. I also know that the Yemeni Government did not exploit these facilities well. [passage omitted]

GPC Standing Committee Ends Extraordinary Session

JN1110161893 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The Standing Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] ended its 15th extraordinary session late last night under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the GPC. The session reviewed political, economic, and social developments in the national arena. It also held discussions on constitutional amendments within the legislative authority represented by the House of Representatives and on the level of political parties and organizations, popular organizations, and the various influential forces in the national arena. [passage omitted]

Al-Sahhaf Addresses UN General Assembly Session

JN0810120393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] New York, 7 Oct [date as received] (INA)—Iraq has stated that double standards and selectivity, which characterize the UN role in the current phase, embody the fact that the United Nations and the Security Council, in particular, have become executive tools at the disposal of the wills of the influential powers. The United Nations is no longer a world organization capable of resolving the problems and crises from which many world states and peoples suffer, contrary to the UN Charter's objectives and principles.

Delivering Iraq's speech before the UN's 48th session, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said: The way of dealing with Iraq is the best example of U.S. hegemony over the United Nations. It also embodies the U.S. way of interpreting and implementing the provisions of the UN Charter and its pertinent mechanisms in order to achieve unilateral, rather than, common interests.

Al-Sahhaf explained that Iraq is still subjected to acts of aggression which threaten both its security and territorial integrity, and undermine its sovereignty. Iraq is still deprived of its natural right to securing its own needs, including those needs described by the international laws as basic humanitarian and civil needs necessary for a continued natural life for the Iraqi people.

Al-Sahhaf added: In order for the principles of justice, fairness, and reciprocal rights between Iraq and the Security Council to prevail, we urge all world states to support our initiative so dialogue and understanding between the Council and Iraq will prevail and the unjust embargo on our country be lifted as soon as possible.

Regarding human rights, the foreign minister stressed that Iraq fully believes in these rights. It also believes that respecting and promoting these rights is the basis of the society's internal structure, and have a positive impact on peace and justice in the international community. It is currently observed that the term human rights has become a weapon used by powerful states to influence and pressure some countries into achieving individual objectives and political interests rather than common objectives and interests for the international community, he pointed out.

Al-Sahhaf said: Iraq is a founding member of the United Nations, and is extremely concerned about keeping the UN's name and slogan an object of respect and hope by all world peoples. He explained: Enhancing the UN's ability to safeguard peace requires first and foremost a precise commitment to the Charter's objectives and principles, mainly the principles of equality in sovereignty, people's right to self-determination, noninterference in the internal affairs of states, and compliance with the bases of the international law.

Regarding peace and security, al-Sahhaf asserted that the real guarantee of international peace and security depends on removing the reasons behind conflicts. Economic and social development is the most important starting point to consolidate the international peace and security, he added.

The foreign minister emphasized that the Security Council's membership should conform to the increase in the UN members, and should also reflect a more balanced and fair representation for all UN members. In making decisions, the Council should abide by the principles of clarity and openness and its work should respect states' sovereign rights. Peace is a concept that cannot be divided, and is a basic human right approved by divine and international laws. This concept must tackle all dimensions, particularly the economic dimension, which, if lost, would cause the international community to face real and serious problems and conflicts, he added.

Comments on UN Talks Status

JN1010205593 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Iraq called on the United Nations to lift economic sanctions imposed since the 1990 Gulf crisis. Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, who arrived in Amman en route from New York to Baghdad, urged the United Nations to allow the sale of Iraqi-made goods in light of recent compliance with UN resolutions. He told the "News at Ten" that it was time for the Security Council to act accordingly.

[Begin al-Sahhaf recording] Now both sides are very close in order to reach this conclusion. As you know, in the second round of talks in Baghdad, taken place recently there, both sides had closed many files regarding Section C of Resolution 687. That means now both sides, Iraq and the Special Commission, now heading towards preparing the report to the Security Council saying that Section C has been met fully, and the second stage is to have an agreement upon the plans of the ongoing monitoring according to Resolution 715.

If we look to the whole matter of sanctions from legal and technical viewpoint, we will see that we are in the threshold of implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. That means that Iraq had honored all its obligations according to Security Council resolutions, and that now it is time to Security Council in order to honor its obligations towards Iraq according to Paragraph 22. [end recording]

Former Turkish Interior Minister Sezgin Pays Visit

Says Embargo Harms Iraq, Turkey

JN0610211293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, today received former Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin, who is also a member of the Turkish Grand National Assembly representing the ruling True Path Party.

'Izzat Ibrahim commended the friendly Turkish people's support for the Iraqi people, which was expressed by many Turkish parties, trade unions, and national figures when Iraq came under a criminal attack by the United States and its allies. He also expressed the hope that Turkey will make efforts to lift the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people, who are being denied access to food and medicine.

Ismet Sezgin noted the Turkish people's desire and concern for promoting the historic ties between the two neighboring peoples. He also hoped that the economic embargo imposed on Iraq would be lifted, particularly since it has caused immense harm, not only to Iraq, but to the Turkish economy as well.

The meeting was attended by Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, the senior Foreign Ministry under secretary, and Raf i' Dahham, the Iraqi ambassador in Ankara.

Saddam Receives Sezgin, Demirel Message

JN0910211593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2051 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Oct (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has received Ismet Sezgin, the former Turkish interior minister.

Ismet Sezgin conveyed to his excellency an oral message from Turkish President Suleyman Demirel.

The meeting was permeated with an atmosphere of concern about bolstering relations between Turkey and Iraq.

Pressure Sought To Lift Embargo

JN1010114593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Oct (INA)—A deputy representing Turkey's ruling party has said the government of Mrs. Tansu Ciller is now making preparations to send the first official delegation to Iraq, led by Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin.

In a statement published by AL-JUMHURIYAH today, Ismet Sezgin stressed his country's independent foreign policy and its rejection of the U.S. role of fighting any state that sincerely seeks to lift the Iraq embargo. He pointed to the possibility of such stands against the efforts being made by the Turkish prime minister to lift the embargo.

Sezgin added: As a ruling party, we reject the interference of any state that tries to dictate a stand on us against the national interests of our people. Our government will press ahead to have a resolution issued lifting the embargo imposed on the friendly Iraqi people.

Sezgin called on the international community to put pressure on the United Nations to lift the embargo, especially since Iraq has fulfilled its obligations.

Sezgin stressed the importance of returning political and economic relations between Iraq and Turkey to the way they were in the past, especially returning the flow of Iraqi oil through Turkish territory.

He also called for ending all external manifestations and interference affecting Iraq's territorial integrity, saying this is one of the most important conditions to preserve the independence, security, and national decisionamking of Middle East countries.

Government: 3 Companies To Sell Oil to Turkey, Iran

NC1210073093 Paris AFP in English 2349 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Nicosia, Oct 12 (AFP)—The Iraqi government authorised the creation of three private companies to sell its oil, in spite of the United Nations embargo, the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY (MEES) weekly review said Monday [11 October].

Under the decree allowing them to start business, the three companies are to sell small amounts of crude oil to neighbouring states, the MEES said.

The three firms—al-Sadirah, Wadi Hajar and al-Basha'ir—recently sold between 20,000 and 30,000 barrels a day to Iranian and Turkish buyers, and arranged deals with Kurdish businessmen in Northern Iraq, said MEES.

Until the creation of the three private firms, the State Oil Marketing Organization (SOMO) has been solely responsible for the sale of Iraqi oil since its nationalization, over 20 years ago.

The boards of directors of the three private companies are mainly composed of senior officials in the oil sector, and it is not clear whether these firms will continue to export oil once United Nations sanctions are lifted, the weekly review added.

Iraq has been under an international economic embargo since it invaded Kuwait, in August 1990.

Saddam Sends Message to Morocco's King Hassan

JN1110193193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] King Hassan II of Morocco today received a verbal message from his brother Leader President Saddam Husayn concerning brotherly ties between the two fraternal countries and current Arab conditions. The message includes his excellency's brotherly greetings to him and the people of sisterly Morocco.

The message was conveyed by Iraqi Ambassador in Rabat Nadim Ahmad al-Yasin when he was received today by King Hassan II. The Moroccan king asked the ambassador to convey brotherly greetings and wishes to his brother Saddam Husayn and wishes of continued prosperity to the Iraqi people.

BABIL Views Military Commanders Meeting in Kuwait

JN1010091093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Oct (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has asserted that the United States is working to get back petrodollars from the Kuwaiti rulers through weak assurances of continued protection and security.

In an editorial today, BABIL says the meeting of the military commanders of the states that committed aggression against Iraq in Kuwait today is only one aspect of these assurances, by way of a military maneuver said to be the largest in the region.

The paper stresses that Kuwait's current status constitutes a crime and creates a predicament for the forces that organized the alliance and the aggression against Iraq, led by Washington.

The paper says those forces, led by the White House, are embarrassed because everyone realizes that Kuwait cannot remain stable in a troubled region threatened by earthquakes.

The paper expresses confidence that the U.S. Administration is doing its best to deceive and blackmail the al-Sabah family, using the issues of security and fear. The U.S. Administration is trying to instill within them the concept of security through intensive armament and conducting joint maneuvers.

The paper concludes that Washington is pushing the Kuwait rulers toward producing more oil to cover the expenses of armament and maneuvers without really achieving for them a major base for regional security, which is a logical framework for relative stability.

New Executions Carried Out in al-Radwaniyah Prison

NC0810164393 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad's bloody regime persists in its injustice and human rights violations amid international silence and a lack of deterrence.

According to reports, executions are continuing in the horrible al-Radwaniyah Prison. A few days ago the regime executed a new group of the mujahidin who rebelled against it in Sha'ban [March 1991] and who had been detained since that time. The reports say that the condemned individuals are blindfolded and made to stand with their backs to earth barricades in view of the other detainees. They are then shot and earth-moving machinery buries their bodies in mass graves behind the same earth barricades.

Numerous Iraqi opposition parties have issued appeals to the UN Security Council, other international bodies, and humanitarian organizations to stop the shedding of our enduring people's blood at the hands of the tyrant Saddam.

Arrests, Executions Following Coup Attempts Reported

JN0910211093 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Oct 93

[text] The latest information about the coups attempted last month to topple Saddam and his criminal clique indicates that Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd Ahmad al-Juburi, a staff officer in the Saddamist armed forces command, has been arrested along with 22 other officers, including Staff Lieutenant Colonel Salim Muhammad al-Juburi, the staff officer of the (fifth?) Army Corps.

A spokesman of the bureau of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraqi Kurdistan said that these officers were executed by firing squad along with (Shaykh?) 'Ata al-Dububi and that their movable and immovable property was confiscated.

Our sources also say that a campaign to expel their relatives from the Army and other important positions began after this aborted coup attempt.

It is worth mentioning that the tyrant regime's security organs have launched a large-scale arrest campaign among the retired officers who were charged with involvement in the two attempts to topple the tribal regime in Baghdad. Among these returned officers was Major General Bashir al-Salim, the commander of the presidential guard brigade in the government of 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Arif. He is from the town of Mosul and was executed by firing squad along with a group of retired officers late last month.

These coup attempts follow the disturbed political situation in Iraq and the deteriorating economic conditions as a result of the unsuccessful policy of the criminal Saddamist regime.

Car Explosion Near Trade Ministry Reported

JN0910092593 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] A booby-trapped Brazilian-made car exploded in front of the Saddamist ministry of trade in the heart of Baghdad at the end of September. Our informed sources at the scene of the incident stressed that the explosion was heard in many areas in Baghdad, and that it caused heavy material damage and wounded some of the ministry's workers.

Following this huge explosion, the henchmen of the regime launched an indiscriminate arrest campaign against innocent citizens.

The defeatist Saddam regime admitted this incident during the interview Saddam's television conducted with

one of the al-Basrah Governorate's citizens, during which he was accused of masterminding the explosion. This is an obvious act of theater by which the regime wanted to justify its abominable defeats to the sons of our people.

It is worth noting that the defeatist 'Aflaqite regime resorts to these obvious games in an attempt to show its strength and ability each time its security and political crises exacerbate and the popular rejection of the collapsing regime escalates.

Rabin Leaves on State Visit to China

TA1010085393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left this morning on a state visit to the PRC. His spokesman said that the visit follows an invitation by PRC Prime Minister Li Peng. Israel hopes the visit will allow for a turning point in an improvement in ties between the two countries. The two countries established diplomatic relations two years ago.

Receives U.S. Message on 'Tension'

TA1010111193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Oct 93 p A1, A10

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] The United States has recently relayed a message to Prime Minister Rabin briefing him about recent tension between Washington and Beijing and requested that he "take this situation into consideration" in his talks with the Chinese Administration during his five-day visit to the PRC. [passage omitted]

In its message, the United States details the growing tension in its relations with the PRC, especially following the latter's resumption of underground nuclear testing last week, despite explicit requests from the United States to avoid this. The United States and Japan believe that the Chinese move will make it difficult to curb the North Korean nuclear project and could also induce other countries, such as France, to violate the informal prohibition against nuclear testing.

The United States and the PRC are also at loggerheads over Beijing's arms sales to various countries, mainly Iran and Iraq; about the human rights situation in China; and about trade issues. The tension also stems from Chinese frustration over the fact it lost the race to host the 2000 Olympic Games.

Sources in Jerusalem believe that due to the U.S. request Rabin will vigorously oppose any technology transfer to the PRC. The Chinese preference for advance technology rather than ready-made products has significantly reduced the scope of Chinese weapon purchases from Israeli military industries over the last few years.

On the eve of Rabin's arrival to China, Israel and the PRC have exchanged letters paving the way for an Israeli consulate in Shanghai. The exchange of letters took place in the Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing. Israel was represented by Ruth Kahanov, the political adviser of the Israeli Embassy. The letters state that Israel is to open a consulate in Shanghai. The difficulty of having the PRC open a parallel consulate in Jerusalem was bypassed by stating that the PRC will establish a general consulate in Israel "in a location to be agreed on in future." [passage omitted]

Rabin Views 'Arafat Meeting, Prisoner Release

TA0810203693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Studio interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik on 8 October—recorded]

[Text] [Sukenik] Mr. Prime Minister, in the wake of your first working meeting with Yasir 'Arafat this week, do you think we can make a deal with him?

[Rabin] I do not jump to conclusions on the basis of a single meeting, but it was businesslike and lasted an hour-and-a-half. We achieved the targets I had set for myself: to lead the negotiations onto a practical track. In other words, to translate the agreement on a declaration of principles—with its protocols and appendices, which constitute a single package—into something practical, by setting up committees and negotiating teams, and deciding on the locations and the dates for their meetings.

[Sukenik] Do you see any possibility that such trust might develop between you and 'Arafat that you might settle matters between the two of you?

[Rabin] We did not have a private meeting, we met in a forum of two delegations. I prefer not having tete-a-tete meetings, but to reach conclusions in larger forums so that during the deliberations each person can raise issues that concern him to permit real conclusions to be reached. The test of the entire negotiating process, of the declaration of principles agreement, is in its implementation on the ground. It is in our interest for them to run their own affairs while we look after the security of the Jewish settlers and the Israelis in the territories, and safeguard external security. That will be the test. In order to achieve that we have to cooperate, reach agreements, and implement them jointly.

[Sukenik] Do you feel they are prepared for that or that they still find it hard to digest?

[Rabin] I do not know. I do not want to deal with speculations, I will see when the negotiations start.

[Sukenik] Mr. Rabin, will the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] at your instructions continue to search for armed wanted men, who have in fact stopped harming Israelis and support peace and 'Arafat?

[Rabin] We will bring these issues up in the negotiations in order to find solutions. I do not want to go into details now. The focus of IDF activities is against those who are currently carrying out violent activities in order to harm Israelis and to torpedo the negotiations.

[Sukenik] I know that all the issues will come up for negotiations as of next week, but still, you said in your meeting with 'Arafat—according to participants—that the release of many prisoners can be expected soon. Can we assume that thousands of Palestinian prisoners will soon be released in the territories?

[Rabin] Detainees and prisoners will be released, the treatment of wanted men will be decided upon. All that will be part of finding a solution which will give us security and them the opportunity to run their own affairs while reducing violence and terrorism.

[Sukenik] Does such a massive release of prisoners not worry you? We have had bad experiences in the past.

[Rabin] I do not want to go into numbers, timing, or who will be released. All that will be decided in the negotiations. I suggest that we all understand that something has changed. To me, to this government, reality has changed. We have decided to view the PLO as a partner for peace, under certain conditions: First, it has to stop violence and terrorism. Since 13 September and up to the present, that has been done. We decided to regard it as a partner for coexistence for the interim arrangement: It will run its affairs and we will be responsible for our security. Whoever tries to understand the situation based on previous concepts is mistaken.

[Sukenik] Another important issue, which I am sure intrigues and concerns many Israelis: the right of return. 'Arafat reiterated after his meeting with you that not only those displaced in 1967, but also those from 1948, have a homeland and will want to return. What is you approach? Who will be permitted to return to the territories?

[Rabin] We are currently only dealing with the interim arrangement. We have our positions on the permanent settlement: United Jerusalem as the capital of Israel under Israeli sovereignty, no Palestinian state between us and Jordan, no right of return, responsibility for the security of the settlements and the Israelis in the territories, especially during the interim period. We are currently not discussing a permanent solution. We know that we are in dispute over that. The test is whether there will be a new reality between us and the Palestinians in the territories for the five-year interim period.

[Sukenik] Does the fact that the U.S. President and secretary of state met this week for the first time in years with the Syrian foreign minister mean that something has changed in the Syrian attitude, as far as you know?

[Rabin] I believe that a new reality is being formed in the Middle East, or at least a chance for a new reality.

[Sukenik] And there is already some Syrian movement?

[Rabin] It is very possible that there are movements in other areas. I think that we are living in a time when the issue is not to stick to old concepts, but to find ways to create a new reality. This government was elected to change the reality and acts to fulfill its promise to the public. This means risks, it is not a simple matter, but I believe the chances are greater than the risks.

[Sukenik] Finally, did you promise 'Arafat to permit inhabitants from the territories to enter Jerusalem despite the closure?

[Rabin] Definitely not. I said that the closure will continue. I am prepared to discuss easing several restrictions due to Jerusalem's special status. For example, there are Palestinian hospitals, educational institutes, and organizational institutions in Jerusalem. Some have already received permits for people linked to them or requiring treatment to enter Jerusalem. If we have to issue some more, without changing the basic situation under the closure—whose main consideration is security and not politics—then we will do so.

Discusses Terrorism at Election Rally

TA0910204393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said a short time ago that the terrorists who tried to infiltrate into northern Israel before dawn and those who murdered the hikers in the Judaean Desert today want to strangle the chance for peace and provide the opponents of peace on both sides with ammunition. In an address to an election rally in Haifa, the prime minister noted that only opponents of peace among the Palestinians participate in terrorism. Here is an excerpt from the prime minister's remarks:

[Begin Rabin recording] Before dawn today terrorists tried to infiltrate via the sea. This afternoon, terrorists murdered three hikers in Wadi al-Qilt. They wanted to kill Jews, and at the same time, murder the chance for peace because only the Palestinian opponents of peace are currently participating in terror. I know it is not easy to talk about peace on a day when there is an attempt to infiltrate from the sea, to harm a settlement in the north of the country, and innocent hikers are killed in the Judaean Desert, but who is perpetrating those things and why? They do it to provide the opponents of peace on both sides with ammunition. We are determined to continue the path we have taken. We said it would not be easy, that there would be obstacles, that there would be painful times, but we must stick to our target. [end recording]

The prime minister leaves tonight for an official visit to China.

Peres Statement Opens Knesset Winter Session

TA1110154793 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1404 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Political statement by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the opening of the Knesset winter session—live; Peres occasionally interrupted by opposition heckling]

[Text] Honorable Knesset, I want to express my condolences and that of the entire government to the Bakhar and Foerer families who lost their dear ones in the despicable terrorist attack in Wadi al- Qilt. Dror, 25, and 'Eran, 23, hiked peacefully in one of the most beautiful places in Israel and died in the battle for peace. They are the victims of burning hatred, of stupefying evil. The Islamic Jihad organization has already taken responsibility for this crime. This shows us not only who is

responsible for this act, but what their intentions are as well. These men of blood are the enemies of peace. They did not merely want to kill these innocent hikers, but also the hope for peace. They wanted to destroy the hope both of the Israelis and of many Palestinians. They lifted their evil hands not only against Dror and 'Eran, but also against the Israeli- Palestinian agreement.

This was also the intention of the terrorists who tried to infiltrate via the sea and to perpetrate a large-scale attack on our northern coast. Our Navy's success in foiling this plan must not relax our alertness. On the contrary, our success should serve as a warning sign; the enemies of peace are planning to foil the process because their entire existence is dependent on the continuation of the state of hostility. Once peace comes they will lose their raison d'etre. Therefore they are trying to harm us, as well as the PLO senior echelon, as has been made public.

The Wadi al-Qilt murders and the infiltration attempt in the north will not be the last attempts. There will probably be more attempts to torpedo the peace by acts of terrorism and murder. Israel, therefore, insists on its full right and comprehensive duty to prevent a security vacuum during the interim stage as well. Israel and its security forces will defend its citizens and the Palestinian population under our rule. It will relentlessly pursue the terrorists and the enemies of peace, and will not leave them alone.

In the near future the enemies of peace will continue their attempts to spill blood, cause suffering, and harm innocent people. However, he who believes that by wielding a butcher's knife or by firing bullets from an ambush it is possible to foil historic moves is deluding himself. The world is ridding itself of murderers. The attempts to destroy the peace@in which both Israelis and Arabs are interested is creating a coalition of interests which hitherto would have seemed unimaginable. It is now necessary for both Israelis and Palestinians to act against terrorism. Now, it is not only we who are interested in overcoming terrorism. Our neighbors also must share this interest, because the knife is pointed at them as well. Our joint interests must lead to cooperation for achieving these interests. Israel is willing to cooperate with any party in our region willing to curb terrorism. Together we will be able to promise both Israeli and Palestinian mothers that their sons traveling on the road will return home safely without being threatened by assassins and terrorists.

We have still not reached a state of calm and tranquility. It is possible that both we and our neighbors still face acts of terrorism. But we are approaching the stage in which it will transpire that terrorism has no future and is doomed. If we avoid doing what these murderers want us to do; if we stick to peace and continue with the implementation of the agreements which have already been signed; if we continue to strive toward attaining more agreements, then this wave of terrorism will wither and abate due to its futility, just as the state of war is dying out due to its futility.

The security forces will continue to fulfill their duty in foiling and preventing acts of terrorism and in apprehending and trying terrorists. We know very well, however, that military moves will not suffice. The implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and the autonomy plan and a significant improvement in the socioeconomic situation in the territories will also help in decreasing the level of violence. After all, terrorism is the weapon of desperate people who have nothing to lose in the present and no hopes for the future. A population which stands to lose something, a society with a solid economic infrastructure and hopes for a better future is not inclined to permit a trigger-happy mentality to endanger the rightful expectations of its members.

Knesset Members, our objectives are, therefore, safeguarding the security of all the residents of all the towns within the autonomy and outside it. This will be made possible by faithfully implementing the agreement with the PLO, by energetically pursuing the peace process with all our neighbors, and by building a new Middle East that will meet the new challenges of our era.

The implementation of our agreement with the PLO, as approved by the Knesset, will decrease the friction between us and them and will burden the Palestinians with the responsibility of preserving law and order. It will increase our common interest in preserving peace and overcoming terrorism.

No nation should elect the leaders of another nation, and no nation should arrest the criminals of another nation. The government is determined to continue with the policy of peace, which has strengthened our national and personal security. This government has promised the public and the Knesset to improve the security situation, and it is fulfilling its promise, despite the painful victims. The truth is that the personal security situation in Israel's cities and roads has improved. This change stems from the fusion of security measures and political initiatives. We must not forgo either of these two components of our national strategy. We will not relax the security measures wherever and whenever they are called for, nor will we give up the necessary political moves.

Knesset Members, we will not do what our enemies want us to do. We will not stop the peace process because the enemies of peace want us to do so. On the contrary, we will stick to our peace and security policy even more firmly.

Mr. Speaker, the government of Israel expects to make the agreement with the Palestinians a great success. After 100 years of hostility, the first buds of mutual interests are beginning to blossom. This does not refer merely to the issue of the struggle against extremism and terrorism, but also to socioeconomic issues. Suffice it to mention our common natural resources and the human potential we share. What has been in the past a disturbing and divisive factor can become a helpful and uniting factor in the near future. During the second half of the 20th century we have learned that it is not enough to give

people an ID card. It is necessary to create a solid economic infrastructure so that the self-rule will not become a painful economic failure, as was the case in several African countries. A happy neighbor is also a better neighbor.

Following the Knesset decision, the discussions entered high gear. In a meeting between the prime minister and the PLO chairman in Cairo it was decided to establish the coordinating committee, to convene in Tabah for a period of two months, as well as the liaison committee, which will convene occasionally in Cairo to deal with substantial problems that crop up as the negotiations proceed. The coordinating committee will be headed, on Israel's side, by Major General Amnon Shahaq, the deputy chief of staff. The liaison committee will be headed by the foreign minister. We will depart for Cairo next Wednesday [13 October] for the first session of the committee.

We do not regard the agreement with the Palestinians as a commercial transaction, but rather as a historic agreement; we do not regard it as an agreement between leaders, but rather as an agreement between nations.

Tomorrow the fourth session of the multilateral negotiations will start in Tunis with a meeting of the refugee affairs committee. Refugees and demands posed by refugees are not the prerogatives of one side only. We must seriously and comprehensively discuss all the demands. The Israeli delegation is headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. The very fact that an Israeli delegation is openly traveling to Tunis is another sign of normalization in relations. Israel expects a deepening of normalization in relations with North African countries. There are no more excuses for our conflict. We are extending our hand for peace and for a fertile, deep, and sincere cooperation with these countries.

Our negotiations with the Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian, and Palestinian delegations in Washington will continue. In our negotiations with the Palestinians we will discuss the remaining problems relating to the autonomy, including elections for the council and its size. In this context I would like to inform the Knesset about dividing our delegation for talks with Jordan and the Palestinians into two separate delegations. This was done at their own request and after we reached the conclusion that the negotiations will no longer be served by uniting these two delegations. This division will also take place in the multilateral talks.

Knesset Members, we are interested in attaining a full, public, and historic agreement with our eastern neighbors, the Hashemite kingdom. In this spirit we also conducted the public tripartite meeting among the U.S. President, the Jordanian crown prince, and Israel's foreign minister. I told the crown prince that historically we are sons of one father, Abraham, and that geographically we are neighbors on the Red Sea, the 'Arava desert, the Dead Sea with its resources, and the Jordan River. These places can be both a bone of contention and a source of great wealth to Jordan, the Palestinians, and Israel. If we see to economic transportation routes; prevent a waste in infrastructure, such as double airports and ports; preserve tourism interests; strictly preserve water purity; exhaust the potential of Dead Sea minerals and the rare beauty of the Red Sea; change the scenery of the 'Arava, and develop intensive and modern agriculture; then we could save many people from poverty, which breeds protest and violence. We are interested in a thriving Jordan. We have proven more than once that we have real respect for the independence of the Hashemite Kingdom. We have proposed the establishment of a fertile economic triangle, which would serve as a lever for far-reaching cooperation. Such cooperation will not replace the political arrangements, but will rather come in addition to them. Toward this end we have agreed to establish a tripartite committee made up of two American, two Israeli, and two Jordanian representatives. I was happy to learn that the Jordanian crown prince—who incidentally speaks Hebrew—also shares these sentiments.

We are willing to continue our negotiations with Syria and Lebanon in Washington, just as we will continue with the talks with Jordan and the Palestinians. We want to reach an agreement with Syria. Only a comprehensive agreement of all the countries in the Middle East will constitute a truly full agreement. Negotiations with each of these four parties have their own logic and basis. The purpose is to heal all the open wounds on the Middle East's body. We want to tell Syria clearly that we are willing to conduct fair negotiations with it. Negotiations between equal parties, which will make room for a fair compromise, and which will bridge the understandable fears of both the Syrians and ourselves. We mainly want to ensure Israel's security needs, without ignoring Syria's security needs. We are interested in a peace which is not merely a verbal or a spectacular thing, but a peace that will create a new and promising reality for both nations. We want to remove the old-time restrictions of negotiations conducted along a narrow, limited track, and to open the door for an appropriate dialogue, as is the norm in our days.

Knesset Members, we have no interest in Lebanese soil, water, or politics. On the contrary, we are interested in an independent and integrated Lebanon which poses no threats to the security of its neighbors. If Lebanon has a clear and independent policy, if it has one army, without the armed Hizballah gangs, it will be able to return to its old self and to conduct true negotiations with us.

Knesset Members, following the Knesset's ratification of the agreement with the PLO, the government sent me to the UN General Assembly session and to meetings with the U.S. President, the vice president, and the secretary of state, the Jordanian crown prince, the president of Portugal, Germany's chancellor, the UN secretary general, and the foreign ministers of 36 countries. I found unprecedented support for Israel. I witnessed unparalleled willingness to help our economic development, improve our international standing, and mainly to strengthen the peace process. I can say without any

exaggeration that this process caused general admiration in the entire world, with hardly any sign of criticism and reproach.

The EC, for example, has decided to expedite negotiations with Israel in order to create a special place for it in the European Free Trade Area. Most of our requests for improving relations with the EC were accepted. They even offered to raise our status in the EC to that of an associate member [havera nilvet] in place of our present status.

During my visit to the UN General Assembly relations were resumed or established with five more countries: Burkina Faso, Gabon, Mauritius, Cambodia, and Turkmenistan. Ghana has also announced its desire to resume diplomatic relations with Israel. In the United Nations itself we notice positive trends of the kind we have not known in the past in relation to Israel. For example, a resolution is being worked out welcoming the Israel-Palestinian agreement. At the same time many countries are acting toward removing from the agenda mistaken and anachronistic anti-Israeli resolutions.

A conference for aiding the peace process in the Middle East was held in Washington. During this conference $2 billion was pledged for aiding the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. This conference was directed by the U.S. secretary of state and the secretary of the treasury. Israel was represented by its foreign minister and its finance minister. We played a large part in organizing this conference.

To those who say that the poor of your own cities should come first, I must add that if we are speaking here about the poor of our cities, then the poor of Gaza are also under Israeli rule. So far Israel has faced this poverty alone. Now we have international support for this. This poverty has always been fertile soil for hatred and violence. We want to uproot poverty from the entire Middle East, because a thriving Middle East will also be a stable Middle East from the security point of view. A thriving Middle East will also be able to absorb immigration properly.

This is the place to speak about the development of the entire region and our role here. Speaking about development in the Middle East, we must answer two questions: What is Israel's role in developing the region, and what is the correct way to develop it.

Knesset Members, as far as Israel is concerned, we have no interest in a takeover of the Middle East economy. We have not forgone control over territories in order to gain control over economies. The era of political and economic takeover by means of war vessels or political coercion has gone forever. Today the world competes in goods and services without anybody trying to arouse the anger of somebody else by means of exploitation and coercion.

Israel does not want to be depicted as a arrogant country which wants to teach other countries lessons. All we are saying is that what is required for the well-being of all the nations in our region—and we must prefer the well-being of nations to the comfort of rulers—is to solve the major problems of all nations in the framework of a regional solution, and there is no better solution than a regional solution.

The issues of water, desertification, tourism, and the arms race can be handled only by means of regional agreements. Not by coercion, war, takeovers, but only by means of real cooperation, by lowering economic barriers—as is being done in Europe and the United States. Even when a nation preserves it national ID card, borders should not pose economic restrictions.

There are certainly different kinds of regimes in our region—this is not Europe. There are also profound differences in the level of national economies. In at least four issues, however, I believe we can reach an agreement despite the differences: One, unless the entire region unites on the issue of desertification the entire region will turn into a desert. This can be done by means of the correct use of water, by recycling water, and by desalination projects. By means of a judicious use of its science, technology, and planning, Israel has increased its agricultural output twelve fold in 25 years. We did this without cultivating more land and without being blessed with plentiful water.

Nature and history blessed our region with unparalleled tourism attractions. Jerusalem's eternal nature, the pyramids' power, the beauty of Petra's palaces, the beauty of Baalbek's pillars are unparalleled tourism attractions. All this in a region blessed with a blue sky and summery weather. Tourism can create hundreds of thousand of jobs, encourage calm, and create an interest for preserving the calm. What was once the role of military forces can now become the function of large-scale regional tourism.

Three, we must properly organize a modern economic infrastructure in our region. Oil, gas, and water pipelines; roads and railways; new airports and ports; and telecommunications will all turn the region's small geographic dimensions into an economic advantage for all its residents.

Finally, by means of a coordinated effort we must decrease negative expenses stemming from the excessive arms race, inflated armies, regimes which consume the money of the taxpayers for the purpose of maintaining secret polices and debilitating and outdated censorships. All of these purposes will in any case not enjoy foreign aid, and have no more place in a world in which the television screens show the youth of the world how it is possible to live in conditions of freedom, progress, and movement, rather than in regressive and outmoded conditions and in fear.

Knesset Members, this is a period of great opportunity for the Jewish nation, a period of great opportunity for Israel, for our region, for our Arab neighbors and other neighbors. We will not despise small things, but neither will we sink into small things. We will preserve our military strength in order to overcome violence and deter enemies. We will

also, however, open wide the gates to Jewish immigration and to a new Middle East that will enable all its inhabitants to enter the next century on the side of the winners rather than the losers; on the side of those who have hope rather than the desperate.

Peres Sees 'New Solution' for Final Stage Talks

TA1110183693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Yoni Ben-Menahem at the Knesset on 11 October—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; processed from Hebrew]

[Text] [Peres] The agreement does not make any promises regarding the Palestinian prisoners. Everything we have agreed on has been presented before the Knesset. If you read the agreement closely, you will see that the issue was not mentioned. At the same time, we announced orally that issues pertaining to the autonomy—with the exception of Jerusalem and the settlements—could be discussed in the framework of the committees that will be set up, including the liaison committee. Raising this issue for discussion will be legitimate.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Peres, at the cabinet session yesterday you said that the chances of obtaining a reasonable agreement with the Syrians have improved. Is there any progress in the negotiations with Syria?

[Peres] At this stage there is no progress, but the picture is getting clearer. We said two things: One, that each track of negotiations should make progress on its own two feet, and we do not want one foot chained to another, or else there would be no progress. We reached an agreement with the Palestinians, and then we reached an agreement on the agenda with Jordan. This means that, in fact, our view of things has been accepted. I believe this makes it easier to conduct negotiations, as equals, with no preconditions, with Syria as well.

[Ben-Menahem] One of the options, raised by the Meretz representatives at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today, is the establishment of a demilitarized Palestinian state. Can this idea be considered as the permanent arrangement?

[Peres] We know Meretz's positions. There is nothing new in its favoring a demilitarized Palestinian state. All that we have learned is that Meretz has not changed its stands, which is no surprise. If you ask me, we have two years. If you ask for my prophecy or forecast, I will tell you that none of the currently broached solutions will materialize. A brand new solution will suddenly appear—just at it has happened with the Palestinians—and it will be the one accepted by the parties. Three options are being currently discussed, but a fourth option will emerge—which no one talks about and no one can appreciate yet.

Stresses Unity of Jerusalem

TA1110060593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says Jerusalem is not on the agenda of the peace talks, and will never be divided again. He was speaking last night in Jerusalem to the annual congress of the Hadassah Medical Organization.

[Begin Peres recording] There were things that we couldn't give up and we would never give up, for example, the unity of Jerusalem. We made it clear from the very beginning that Jerusalem is not again on the agenda, that we shall not, and we cannot, and we will not agree to redivide Jerusalem. It took the international so :ety such a great effort to get rid of the walls of Berlin—not in order to build walls in the heart of Jerusalem.

And if anybody is really interested, Jerusalem will be open—freely, completely, permanently, indiscriminately—to all believers of the three monotheistic religions. The only way to assure it is if Jerusalem will remain as the capital of the Israeli people. [applause] We are the best and the greatest guarantors of respect and freedom of all religions. One political capital—a city open to every prayer, to every believer in his language and his tradition. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Peres also told reporter Mark Weiss that he will probably head the Israeli delegation to the Liaison Committee on Palestinian autonomy, which convenes in Cairo on Wednesday [13 October]. However, he said he does not think the Palestinians have yet decided who will head their delegation.

Peres added that any move by the Palestinians to declare a provisional government at the beginning of the autonomy agreement would contradict the Israel-PLO agreement.

Peres, Jordan's Hasan To Hold 'Secret' London Meeting

TA0910201193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan are due to meet again in several days in London for their first working session since the signing of the agreement with the PLO. Our political correspondent has learned that the meeting will be secret. In the meantime, an official Israeli envoy is currently on the first working tour of its kind in the Gulf states. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, who is in our Tel Aviv studio, has the details:

Although it is still under a veil of secrecy, Jordan's Prince Hasan and Israel's Foreign Minister Peres are scheduled to meet in London in several days. As will be recalled, they met under President Clinton's sponsorship in early October and shook hands for the first time in front of the cameras. In their working session, the two will mainly try to advance economic issues, including

those of concern to the Palestinians. An Israeli-Jordanian team with two representatives from each side will be set up. We have learned that a British businessman and the Israeli-British businessman Leon Tamman are also supposed to participate in the meeting.

On Wednesday, Minister Peres leaves for Cairo to meet with Abu- Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] at the start of the real negotiations on self-rule in the territories. By the way, next week Peres will be filling in for Prime Minister Rabin, who leaves for an official visit to China tomorrow morning.

And yet another secret tour. Foreign Ministry envoy Bruce Kashdan is touring the Gulf states. Kashdan is an aide to the head of the peace department in the Foreign Ministry. He has dual Israeli-American citizenship and has handled many special missions for the Foreign Ministry over the years. We learned this evening that he recently visited Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar. The preparations for the tour were handled by Foreign Minister Peres who met with Oman's foreign minister and Qatar's deputy foreign minister in New York. Kashdan is meeting with officials, although not of the senior echelon, and businessmen. His main concern is to coordinate cooperation on financial aid for the autonomy, and indirectly also for improving the links between these Arab states and Israel. By the way, the Foreign Ministry has not responded to the above report.

If that is not enough, then Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin leaves Monday for Tunis to head a delegation for three days of deliberations in the multilateral talks on refugee affairs.

Says Report 'Not True'

TA1010081093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, foreign minister and acting prime minister, by Mikha Friedman and Pnina Bat-Tzvi—live]

[Text] [Friedman] The PLO keeps asking Israel to stop hunting fugitives. Do you believe Israel may accept, and the perpetrators of the Wadi al-Qilt murders, for example, will not be caught and put on trial?

[Peres] Come on, Mr. Friedman. First of all, there is no proof that the Wadi al-Qilt murderers are PLO members. Still, there will be no compromise where murderer is concerned. We will issue no license for murder, nor freedom for the murderers. I only hope that it will not be long before a Palestinian police force is set up which will arrest the murderers and criminals. We need not elect Palestinian leaders, nor need we be the ones arresting Palestinian murderers. It is better they do it themselves, as any other nation does as part of its self-government.

[Bat-Tzvi] Mr. Peres, yesterday murder looks like a test case [last two words in English], with Wadi al-Qilt being very close to Jericho.

[Peres] Let us not attach too much importance to this. What do you mean by test case? Who is tested? We know that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is active....

[Bat-Tzvi, interrupting] We know, but will the Palestinian autonomy police carry out the searches?

[Peres] Has it been set up yet? Why should it not carry out the searches? They will do it better than us because they know their people. Look, Jordan, our neighbor, controls Hamas. Has anyone ever fired at Elat from al-'Aqabah?

Let me tell you, my heart bleeds at the news that two young men were murdered while travelling in one of the prettiest sights of our country, as young people should, as we all had. We have to go on travelling and not panic. We will deal with those men as well. Unfortunately, such things have happened to hikers in the past as well. Still, the difference is this: Once they used to murder Israelis because they opposed Israel's existence; now they murder Israelis and Palestinians because they oppose peace with Israel. There is a battle for peace and this is the first time we are not alone in this battle—there is an Arab side and a Palestinian side. The war is not over, absolutely not, but its aims and the coalition waging it have changed and I am certain that victory will not be late in coming.

[Friedman] There is talk of intelligence cooperation between Israel and the PLO. Is it true that Israel notified the PLO of the plot to assassinate Yasir 'Arafat?

[Peres] Are you asking for information or advice?

[Friedman] I want information, and allow me to complete the question.

[Peres] I know what you are asking. Please, understand my reply: Talking about intelligence cooperation contradicts actual cooperation. Some things are better left unspoken. Intelligence sheets usually carry the top secret mark at the top because we do not want to show them to anyone. Nevertheless, I do not know of such talk, nor do I believe it is important. I am certain that when a Palestinian police force is set up, there will be a real new power. Today, there is no police in the territories. The Palestinian policemen have resigned. We cannot send others to replace them. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has been given a policing task which is very difficult, and I do not envy the soldiers on the task. A Palestinian police force will be set up and will be in charge of law and order in many parts of the land, not all. I hope we will jointly fight those who fight us.

[Friedman] Following the reports of an assassination attempt on 'Arafat and his senior aides, and since peace with the Palestinians can only be made with 'Arafat—which is the conclusion you have reached—to what extent does peace depend on this targeted person?

[Peres] I hope no one murders 'Arafat. Why should they? We have never shot at him either. We could have murdered him, according to press reports. Murders,

unfortunately, take place in democracies as well—see the United States. Do not interpreted this as a hint about a murder plot, God forbid, but relations between peoples do not generally depend on individuals, however strong leaders they may be. If there was an assassination attempt, I believe it was successfully thwarted. Why do you consider the fact the attempt was foiled less important than the attempt itself? This shows they can deal with such attempts.

Again, this is an agreement between the peoples, not with some individual or a leadership, ours or theirs. We have two peoples that have matured after a long and painful bloody struggle realizing there is a need to try a different path, since the whole world has changed. Murder and hunting seasons are ending in the world.

[Bat-Tzvi] Minister Peres, our correspondent in Tunis has just reported that Hamas elements have delivered a message to the PLO in which they announce they are ready to stop terror if Israel stops detaining fugitives. Did this issue feature in the talks in Cairo last Friday?

[Peres] No, it did not and we will make no such deals. We made a demand of the PLO—and if Hamas wants to join the picture, the same will apply to it—that it announce an uncompromising war against terror and eventually against terrorists. There was doubt, as you well know, that 'Arafat will utter this. And 'Arafat did, appealing not only to his men but to all the Palestinians. Anyone who wants cooperation with us must stop committing murders or at least do its best to stop them. At the same time, we will not allow policy making to be conducted by murderers or terrorists. We will not be intimidated by them, nor will we surrender to them.

[Friedman] Mr. Peres, there are some questions we must ask, though we know you do not like them, otherwise our superiors will say we are not doing our job properly.

[Peres] If this is the case—ask away, my son.

[Friedman] Well, do you wish to deny Gadi Sukenik's report on television last night that you are about to meet Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan?

[Peres] It is not that I want to deny it. It is simply not true. I believe that Mr. Sukenik was also told this. Why should I travel to London to meet Prince Hasan?

[Friedman] OK, not in London. You know, at the time you were asked whether you had met PLO officials in Sweden, and you said: No, not in Sweden, while you did meet them in Norway.

[Peres] This only goes to show that my answers are precise.

[Friedman] What, then, can you tell us about the travels of Bruce Kashdan, the foreign ministry official, in the Gulf states?

[Peres] There are things that neither the Foreign Ministry nor the foreign minister should discuss. This is one of them.

[Bat-Tzvi] Minister Peres, will you head the liaison committee in the talks in Cairo?

[Peres] If the PLO appoints a senior person, I will.

[Bat-Tzvi] What if it is Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]?

[Peres] The answer will be positive.

[Friedman] What if it is not, and it is someone else?

[Peres] If it is not him, interview me again.

[Friedman] So there is a meeting this coming Wednesday, which you may attend?

[Peres] Yes.

Peres on 'Tremendous Potential' of Jordan Talks

TA1110133093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that during his meeting with Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan suggestions were raised to unite the ports of al-'Aqabah and Elat and to establish a joint Israeli-Jordanian airport north of Elat. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Minister Peres told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the Israeli-Jordanian negotiations will be separate from the talks with the PLO. According to Mr. Peres, next on the agenda is the arrangement with Jordan, which harbors tremendous potential in terms of the development of the 'Arava and water resources. Minister Peres reiterated his stand against a Palestinian state and the right of return.

Talks With Syria Expected To Continue in U.S.

TA0810185993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 8 Oct 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The cabinet was told that all the Israeli teams are now ready for the negotiations, but since the Palestinians seems disorganized and with some agitation in their ranks, it was not known how effective the first seasons would be. Where Syria is concerned, official sources estimate that despite its disappointment over the Israel-PLO accord, Damascus will not interfere with the first stage of its implementation. The evaluation was of the Syrians realizing Israel needed some time out from the process, but the patience of Damascus, the ministers were told, would only last a few months.

Cabinet Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer told reporters there was no doubt the Syrians would turn up for the resumption of the talks in Washington at the end of this month or the beginning of November.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] top generals met with Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin

this morning to present their plans for redeployment when Jericho and the Gaza Strip are handed over to the PLO. With more on the issues is reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Ben-'Ami] What the prime minister heard this morning were the proposals of Israel's security forces for ensuring Israeli security and civilian needs once Jericho and the Gaza Strip come under control of the Palestinians. During the 90-minute presentation, given mainly by the chief of staff, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, and the head of the IDF's Planning Branch, Major General 'Uzi Dayan, the prime minister and the director generals of the Defense Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office received detailed explanations of such issues as security arrangements for Israeli settlements and travelers in the Gaza and Jericho areas, the construction of bypass roads, and the deployment plans for the IDF. [passage omitted]

Beilin Leaves for Tunis, Says Talks on Ties 'Advanced'

TA1110073493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin left for Tunis aboard a direct flight this morning. Later this week, he will hold a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. Deputy Minister Beilin will attend the session of the multilateral committee on refugee affairs in Tunis. In the course of the visit, he will meet also with Tunisian Government representatives.

Speaking at Ben-Gurion Airport this morning, he said that contacts toward the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and Arab countries, such as Morocco, are at an advanced stage.

Shahal To 'Negotiate' With PLO on Jerusalem Issues

TA0910065693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has appointed Police Minister Moshe Shahal to negotiate with the PLO on issues dealing with Jerusalem. The spokesman for the Police Ministry emphasized however that no committee or working group was set up to deal with issues regarding Jerusalem, because the capital is not a subject for negotiations in the autonomy period.

Following their summit in Cairo, Prime Minister Rabin and PLO leader 'Arafat gave reporters conflicting statements on this issue. 'Arafat said a fifth committee was formed on the question of Jerusalem, with Faysal al-Husayni at its head, while Rabin stated that only four committees had been formed, none of them dealing with Jerusalem.

The police spokesman said Minister Shahal would meet next week with Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni and would address the problems associated with Jerusalem raised by the Palestinians in Cairo. Foremost among these is the closure, specifically the sealing off of East Jerusalem from the territories. The spokesman said Shahal and al-Husayni will discuss allowing Palestinians from the territories access to the capital for commercial, educational, and medical services.

Interviewed on Talks

TA0910101493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal by 'Adi Talmor on the weekly "In the Current Situation" program—live]

[Excerpt] [Talmor] Good day, Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

[Shahal] Good morning.

[Talmor] What kind of a mandate did you receive to discuss issues pertaining to Jerusalem?

[Shahal] The prime minister precisely defined this in his statements. The government's decisions regarding the closure on the territories will be upheld. Jerusalem is just like any other place in Israel; however, the city's unique nature and the fact that it houses institutions that serve many residents of the territories must also be taken into account. We must seek to examine ways to ease access to these institutions, whether these are hospitals or educational facilities. These questions cropped up, and we received clear instructions from the prime minister on how to address and handle them.

[Talmor] How prepared will you be to meet the Palestinians half way? They are calling for a complete lifting of the closure, at least with regard to Jerusalem?

[Shahal] I believe that the prime minister has answered that question. The closure will not be lifted. The closure was imposed in order to guarantee the security of Israeli citizens and of all the residents. The reasons for the closure remain valid. There are practical problems that the Palestinians, and especially Faysal al- Husayni, the leader of their delegation, raised in the past and also during the meeting in Cairo. It was with these issues in mind that the prime minister issued his instructions to me. I will first of all hear their grievances. We intend to hold a meeting as soon as possible, and I hope that this will take place tomorrow or Monday [11 October]. Each case or appeal submitted to Israel will be addressed and handled on an individual basis. We will do whatever we can as long as it does not impinge on the day-to-day security of Jerusalem and its neighborhoods.

[Talmor] But there are most certainly some red lines that Israel will refuse to cross despite all the Palestinian demands. What are these red lines?

[Shahal] The most important red line is maintaining security. And this will be left to the professionals. The Israeli police are prepared to handle this issue. We have prepared plans to protect the safety and well-being of Jerusalem residents. These plans are not new and were

prepared over a long period of time. We conducted dozens of meetings in my office. I can cautiously but also confidently state that as far as preparation goes, as well as individual attention to each of the issues pertaining to Jerusalem, the East-West Jerusalem Divide, and access into the city—all these aspects were studied and we have prepared detailed solutions that will ease conditions for the local population, and also provide what we consider as the minimum level of security. Within this framework, we shall first of all listen to the Palestinians' grievances or demands, and, as I said earlier, we shall handle each case on an individual basis.

[Talmor] What about the issue of the Palestinian detainees and prisoners? Palestinian sources are now demanding the immediate release of at least 5,500 Palestinian prisoners and detainees. Is that also the number contemplated by the Israeli Government?

[Shahal] There is no target figure. I would like to say that no discussions have yet been held with regard to the Palestinian detainees or prisoners. Nor is there any commitment on this matter in the agreement of principles. The Palestinians have made appeals on this matter on numerous occasions, most recently at the Cairo meeting. The prime minister replied that this matter would be discussed during the negotiations of the joint committees. Each case will be examined on an individual basis. [passage omitted]

Thousands of Prisoners Due for Release in Two Months

TA0910085693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] The first security prisoners will be released as soon as the joint PLO-Israeli committees conclude their discussions in approximately two months. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that thousands of security prisoners currently held at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] prison camps, as well as several hundred prisoners who have already been sentenced and are now imprisoned in Prison Service Authority installations, will be released.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal will apparently meet tomorrow with Faysal al-Husayni in order to discuss several demands regarding Jerusalem raised during the meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. These demands include free entry into the capital for all Arabs from the territories, except for those residents who do not have a permit to enter Israel. However, our correspondent was told that this demand would be rejected. It seems that the Israeli authorities will issue a larger number of permits, but at this stage, at any rate, there is no talk of ending the closure. Police Ministry sources stressed that no committee would be established to deal with issues pertaining to Jerusalem, since the capital is not on the agenda of the talks.

Shahal Denies Imminent Release

TA1110144893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Speaking at the session of the Knesset Internal Affairs and Environment Committee, which dealt with Israel Police and Prison Service preparations for the interim arrangement in the territories, Police Minister Shahal revealed that rumors and reports about the imminent release of prisoners has already caused a lot of ferment in security prisons. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports:

The police minister—surprised at the skepticism of some Knesset members—reiterated his statement several times. As of this very moment, he said, I have not received any instruction—either in a tete-a-tete or any other forum—concerning the release of security prisoners. It is true, Shahal said, that al-Husayni asked me about it in our meeting yesterday, but I promised him nothing at all.

And yet it is clear to both Shahal and the PLO that security prisoners will be released very soon. As said, this knowledge has caused great ferment among prisoners, to the point of hunger strikes. People want to know what is to become of them.

The Prison Service now holds about 4,000 security prisoners, including murderers and other long-term detainees. The minister instructed the service chief to meticulously classify prisoners along the following criteria: nature of offense, the total sentence, the remaining sentence. Thousands had been sentenced to long imprisonment terms for crimes such as membership in hostile organizations and stone throwing, and it is safe to assume that their release will be negotiated in the near future.

National Religious Party Knesset Member Yig'al Bibi asked the minister for comment concerning what he termed persistent rumors that Fatah members have recently perpetrated some serious attacks, and that the government, according to Bibi, used its military censor to disguise these events. Shahal's reply: Nothing like that has happened. As of this moment, he stressed, all our information indicates that since the signing of the agreement, Fatah has not been involved in any attack, either inside or outside of Israel.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 11 October, in a related report, adds: "The agreement with the Palestinians does not mention the issue of releasing security prisoners, Police Minister Moshe Shahal promised today during a discussion of the Knesset Internal Affairs Committee. The police minister believes Israel will be allowed to veto the employment of former prisoners by the Palestinian police."]

PLO Pledge Not To Harm Collaborators Sought at Talks

NC1210095293 Paris AFP in English 0859 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Oct 12 (AFP)—Israel will demand at autonomy negotiations in Egypt on Wednesday [13 October] a PLO pledge not to harm Palestinians who have collaborated with the authorities, the defence ministry spokesman said.

"Israel has no intention of abandoning those Palestinians who for years have aided in the fight against terrorism," spokesman 'Oded Ben-'Ami told AFP.

The demand would be presented during the meeting at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Tabah, Ben-'Ami said, but refused to give further details. The fate of the 13,000 Palestinian prisoners would also be tackled in Tabah.

The HA'ARETZ newspaper said Israel wanted guarantees that about 5,000 collaborators and their families would be allowed to move back into their homes in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during the five years of autonomy without fearing for their lives.

PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat has warned that they would be judged according "to the law".

Collaborators who have been exposed live under army protection in two special camps, Fahmah near Janin on the West Bank and al- Duhayniyah in the south of the Gaza Strip.

Armed Palestinian groups have killed about 800 Palestinians suspected of collaboration since the intifadah or uprising against Israeli occupation began in December 1987, although exact figures do not exist.

A PLO commitment on the collaborators would be a confidence building measure for the Tabah talks, Ben-'Ami said.

A Israeli military commission has recommended that the collaborators be housed in mobile homes inside Israel and be offered Israeli citizenship or aid to emigrate.

Jospeh Alpher, director of the Jaffe Centre for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv university has called on the Palestinian leadership to amnesty the collaborators in line with an expected amnesty for Palestinian prisoners.

"Perhaps we should keep some of the prisoners as a guarantee," he suggested.

According to Police Minister Moshe Shahal some 9,000 Palestinians are held in army camps in the occupied territories and another 4,000 in prisons in Israel.

He is working on a plan to transfer 1,100 Palestinians, including common criminals, from prisons in Gaza and Jericho "for security reasons".

Agreement To Put Off Autonomy Elections Reported

TA1110145193 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 11 Oct 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hagay Huberman]

[Text] In view of current conditions, Israel and the PLO agreed to put off the elections to the autonomy council to the latest date possible. Our correspondent has learned that the issue apparently came up in the meeting last week between Rabin and 'Arafat, and the two men agreed that the slated date (13 July 1994) would be unsuitable.

PLO officials had recently been hinting to their Israeli interlocutors that the PLO would like to put off the elections for fear that they might be won by Palestinian elements in the territories—thus depriving PLO-Tunis of its hegemony over the local population—and that peace opponents such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] might "hitch a ride" on the elections to increase their power.

Not too long ago, political circles in Jerusalem admitted that Israel may agree to abandon its demand for elections to the autonomy institutions in view of the difficulties emerging with the Palestinians on the issue and the feeling that this complicated matter had best be "skipped." Israel would first like to see the PLO consolidate its leadership in the territories before it proceeds to contest its status in democratic elections. This affinity of interests between Israel and the PLO led to the accord about the need to put off the elections to the autonomy council. The first indications of the change in Israel's position came a few weeks ago in the "placating session" Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held with leaders of the Jordan Valley settlements.

It should be pointed out that until not too long ago the elections to the autonomy council had been a basic component of Rabin's autonomy plan. According to this plan, the local Palestinian leadership to which the powers of the autonomy would be handed over were to be determined only through elections.

It further emerges from the agreement with the PLO that, contrary to Israel's position to date, implementation of the autonomy will begin before the elections to the autonomy council, if these are held at all.

Hamas, Islamic Jihad Request Self-Rule Participation

TA1010100693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Oct 93 p A4

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, and the other Palestinian organizations opposed to the Israel-PLO agreement demand to participate in the self-rule in the territories, and also reap the

benefits of the funds distributions expected to take place as part of the agreement's implementation.

Security sources briefed the cabinet about the pragmatic attitude evinced by the rejectionist organizations in a special session convened by Prime Minister Rabin last Friday, in which he briefed the ministers about his meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo.

The sources reported that among the candidates for the Palestinian police force there are many Hamas members acting under orders of their leadership. According to ministers this indicates the possibility that internal opposition to the Palestinian leadership will decrease as the new arrangements are implemented in the territories.

The security sources also reported that Syria is deeply disappointed with the agreement with the PLO, but so far there are no indications it intends to foil the agreement. It looks as though Syria has adopted a negative albeit passive attitude. According to the sources Syria still awaits progress on its track, and Israel can expect it to continue its passive behavior in the next few months.

The sources reported that 'Arafat enjoys broad support in the PLO institutions, but the opposition—albeit a minority—is confronting him with serious challenges. The sources also divulged that the United States has rejected a PLO request to recognize the self-rule institutions in the territories as a "temporary government." [passage omitted]

Hamas Calls for 'General Strike' in Gaza 13 Oct

NC1110133093 Paris AFP in English 1025 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, Oct 11 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas has called for a strike across the occupied territories Wednesday [13 October] to protest against the start of Palestinian autonomy the same day.

"October 13 will be a general strike," Hamas announced in slogans painted on the walls of Gaza City.

The strike is supported by George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which also fiercely opposes the September 13 autonomy agreement between the PLO and Israel.

"We warn that anyone who breaks the strike will be punished," Hamas warned in the slogans, which included the rallying cry: "No to the agreement to sell our land"

Hamas vowed to continue killing soldiers until the Israel is destroyed and the army and police have stepped up their state of alert fearing the fundamentalists and other radical groups are preparing major attacks following a spate of suicide bombings. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Briefed on Terror Attacks, Political Issues

TA1010105593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] In Jerusalem, the cabinet session has ended. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the chief of staff, the chief of police, and the heads of the security services briefed the ministers about the terror attack in Wadi al-Qilt and the attempted attack from the sea in the north yesterday. The cabinet was told that, so far, no real progress has been made in the investigation of the Wadi al-Qilt attack. The police minister said a special effort is being made to capture the terrorists who perpetrated the attack.

The heads of the security services reported that most of the information they have indicates that the PLO and the organizations connected to it follow 'Arafat's instructions and do not carry out terror attacks.

After the session, Minister Yosi Sarid said that it is clear that the attack is part of a losing battle waged by a negligible minority. The extreme terror is a threat to both Israel and the PLO, which points to our common ground, Sarid said.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 10 October carries a similar report by Hayim Hecht, adding: "In the absence of the prime minister, Shim'on Peres conducted today's cabinet session. His political briefing mainly focused on the international campaign of collecting funds for the economic stabilization of the Palestinian autonomy. Peres told the ministers that some $700 million are available today. Regarding the Syrians, Peres said, the chances of attaining a reasonable agreement with them have improved."]

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu told our correspondent that according to the agreement between Israel and the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat is obligated to take punitive measures against George Habash, whose men have attempted the terror attack from the sea in northern Israel. Netanyahu, therefore, demands that Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres make clear to the PLO leader that honoring the commitment to punish those engaged in terror activity is a condition for opening the talks between the two parties this week.

MK Darawshah Says Party Willing To Join Coalition

TA1110173293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah announced today that the Arab Democratic Party [ADP] is interested in joining the coalition. The ADP has two MK's, Darawshah and Talib al-Sani'. Our party affairs correspondent reports that, according to Darawshah, he quit the Labor Party at the time because it rejected contacts with the PLO. In view of the change in

the circumstances, however, he and his party are currently willing to join the coalition. Our correspondent notes that the matter of the ADP joining the coalition will be examined in a committee made up of ADP and coalition representatives.

Likud, Labor To Unite Against Palestinian State

TA1110085993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Heads of opposition Knesset factions have said that their winter session activities will focus on preventing the government from bringing about the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Knesset Member Moshe Qatzav, the Likud faction chairman, has told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the Likud will seek to cooperate with the Labor faction toward a Knesset majority that will enable legislation constraining the political process with a ban on the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The NRP [National Religious Party] will concentrate on defending the settlements in the territories. NRP faction chairman Yig'al Bibi said he does not rule out cooperation with the government in several spheres toward that end.

Security Officials Fear 'Dramatic Terrorist Attack'

TA1110081693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Report by army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik]

[Text] The evaluation that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] elements are interested in participating in the peace process, and perhaps even in assuming a role in the autonomy council when one is elected, has been voiced by senior defense figures in the past few days.

At the same time, there is concern in the defense establishment that a dramatic terrorist attack may be staged in the coming days by one of the rejectionist @Palestinian or Islamic organizations, such as Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces], Israel Police, and the other security branches have beefed up their deployment and declared alert. This intelligence evaluation refers to the upcoming meeting of the PLO and Israeli negotiating committees on 13 October.

Meanwhile, the searches for the perpetrators of the attack in Wadi al-Qilt continue this morning.

Two Killed in Wadi al-Quilt; 'Terrorists' Suspected

TA0910181893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] This report has just been released. Two Israeli men were killed this evening and one was wounded when their car came under fire as they were touring in Wadi al-Qilt in the Judaean Desert. The attackers got away in the victims' car and it was later found abandoned on the Jerusalem to Jericho road. The police and security forces are assuming it was a terrorist attack and they have mounted a search. Helicopters are taking part in the hunt, and roadblocks have been set up.

Islamic Jihad Claims Attack

NC1010102693 Paris AFP in English 0922 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Amman, Oct 10 (AFP)—The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine on Sunday [10 October] claimed responsibility for killing Israeli hikers in a bid to scupper the Palestinian autonomy accord with Israel.

In a handwritten statement obtained by AFP, the group said its military wing Kata'ib al-Aqsa (batallions of al-Aqsa) carried out the attack near Jericho, the town where autonomy is to be launched on the occupied West Bank.

Officials in Jerusalem said two Israelis were killed.

Islamic Jihad added that the attack was carried out by "the group of the martyr 'Umar al-Ghulah in a park at Wadi al-Qit on the Jericho-Jerusalem road which cost the lives of three Israelis."

The attack was part of the "holy war ... against the Jewish state which will be waged for as long as the capitulation accord exists," it said, referring to the limited autonomy deal signed by Israel and the PLO last month in Washington.

The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine Kata'ib al-Aqsa split from the Islamic Jihad Bayt al-Maqdis in 1990, when the latter allied itself with Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

Kata'ib al-Aqsa is allied with Iran.

[Paris AFP in English at 0920 GMT on 10 October carries the following related report, datelined "Mitzpe Jericho, Occupied West Bank, Oct 10":

["Dozens of settlers blocked the main Jerusalem to Jericho highway on Sunday, demanding that Israel suspend autonomy talks with the PLO following the murder of two Jewish hikers.

["The settlers, some masked with stockings, built a wall of flames of tyres and timber across the road near the settlement of Mitzpe Jericho.

["Police moved in to disperse the demonstrators, who pelted Arab cars with stones, and re-openned the highway after more than an hour.

[" 'The situation is unbearable,' protested Aharon Dom, spokesman for the settlers' council after the killings in nearby Wadi al-Qit, a popular walking spot in the Judean desert.

["The autonomy talks are due to start in Cairo and the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba on Wednesday.

["In Amman the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsiblity for shooting dead three Israelis on Saturday, but only two bodies have been found.

["The search for a possible third victim resumed Sunday after two mutilated corpses were pulled out of a ravine.

["Navy gunboats thwarted an attack on Israel's northern coast on Saturday by blowing up a Palestinian guerrilla on a jet-ski.

[" 'Before (the autonomy agreement) the government used to tell us there were terror attacks because we did not have peace, now we are told there are terror attacks because of peace,' Dom said on Israel radio.

["Ten Palestinian groups announced Saturday they were forming a national front to bring down the September 13 agreement, which comes into effect from October 13, amid reports of a plot to kill PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

[" 'I hope Arafat will not be assassinated, but we must stress that the autonomy agreement was signed between two people and does not depend on any particular leader.'

["Peres refused to say if Israeli security services would cooperate with the PLO to foil a murder plot. 'If such cooperation exists it would be among the things it is better to keep quiet about.'

["The minister said he hoped the Palestinian police force, which is to be set up under the framework of autonomy, will fight terrorism in cooperation with Israel.

[" 'The terror attacks are no longer against Israel but against peace,' he added."]

Second Claim From PFLP

NC1010172993 Paris AFP in English 1632 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Oct 10 (AFP)—A second hard-line Palestinian group on Sunday [10 October] claimed responsibility for killing two Israeli hikers near Jericho, on the West Bank.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a PLO faction opposed to the autonomy accord with Israel, said one of its commando groups "killed two Israelis near Jericho with firearms and knives."

In Amman earlier, the pro-Iranian faction of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine said its members carried out the attack in a bid to scupper the autonomy accord.

The Islamic Jihad said it killed three Israelis. Two mutilated bodies were found in a ravine but Israeli authorities have been searching for a possible third victim.

In a statement issued in Sidon, PFLP military official Abu-Ahmad Fu'ad said "we swear to continue the armed struggle until the shameful (autonomy accord) is destroyed and a Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital, is built."

The PFLP, together with the Islamic Jihad, the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and seven other Palestinian groups, decided on Saturday to form a national rejectionist front against the accord signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel, which is due to take effect from Wednesday.

Hamas claimed responsibility for a bomb attack on Sunday in which an Israeli soldier was wounded.

Navy Kills 'Terrorist' During Infiltration Attempt

TA0910082093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] The Israeli Navy this morning killed a terrorist who attempted to infiltrate Israel on a jet ski. The terrorist was spotted south of al-Naqurah, several hundred meters north of Kefar Rosh Haniqra. Israeli Navy vessels pursued the terrorist and shot at him. Our correspondents Yo'av Aviv and Karmela Menashe report that the terrorist drowned while the jet ski sped on for several hundred meters before stopping.

The police, fearing another infiltration, deployed large forces along the beaches stretching from Nahariyya northwards; however, the area was reopened after a short time and life returned to normal.

Soldier 'Slightly Injured' by Hand Grenade in Gaza

TA1010094493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly injured this morning by a hand grenade that was thrown at an IDF patrol in the Tuffah neighborhood of Gaza this morning. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the soldier was treated in a local military clinic. The terrorist fled and the IDF launched searches for him.

Israeli Stabbed by 'Terrorist' Near Gaza Checkpoint

TA1210103593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] An Israeli citizen was stabbed near the Erez checkpoint about one hour ago. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that the man sustained moderate back wounds and was transferred to the Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon, where he is hospitalized in the emergency ward. There is no danger to his life.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the assailant escaped in the direction of Bayt Hanun. The security forces launched a manhunt.

Bill May Move Shin Bet Probes to State Attorney

TA1110150393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Over the past three years, three Shin Bet investigators have been put on trial in connection with the deaths of people under Shin Bet investigation. Seven investigators have been tried by the Shin Bet in connection with investigations they had carried out. This data was given to the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee, which discussed a bill to hand over the investigation of Shin Bet men to the State Attorney's Office.

Deputy Chief of Staff Appointed Head of Joint Committee

TA0910122893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has appointed Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq to head the committee that will discuss the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. Major General 'Uzi Dayan will act as Shahaq's deputy and acting head of the committee. Dayan will also be the IDF's representative at the liaison committee scheduled to convene in Cairo.

Egypt Interested in Reopening Cairo-Tel Aviv Railroad

TA1110095693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Egypt is interested in reopening the Cairo-Tel Aviv railroad line via Port Said, and is ready to discuss it with Israel. Our transportation affairs correspondent Ilan Lazarovich reports that Transportation Minister Qeysar approached Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni on this matter several months ago. Having checked with Cairo, the ambassador told the minister this week that the Egyptian authorities are indeed interested in the railroad.

King Husayn on Middle East Peace Process

PM0810170093 Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 7 Oct 93 p 10

[Report on interview with King Husayn of Jordan by Peter Beck in Amman; no date given]

[Text] Amman—"I hope that Norway's efforts will go down in history as one of the most important contributions to peace between Israelis and Palestinians," King Husayn of Jordan said.

Despite a long working day it was a relaxed and fit king who received AFTENPOSTEN in the palace in Amman. The number of military units on the perimeter of the palace gardens and the strict security procedures reminded us of all the assassination attempts that have been made on the life of the head of the Hashemite kingdom.

"In retrospect we can see how important—and necessary—it was that the meetings in Norway between the PLO and the Israelis were kept secret. And I did give my full support to the proposed peace agreement 24 hours after it hads become public," the king said.

He was reluctant to go into what he felt the moment he realized that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat had kept him out of the Oslo meetings, but he had earlier made no secret of the fact that he had to be alone for the first 24 hours to collect himself.

"The meetings in Oslo were after all primarily negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, but the human dimension is too important in all of this so that Jordan does not feel that it is important or necessary for us to be involved in the process. And, having said that, the Palestinians have after all always spoken for themselves, both before the talks in Norway and since then."

[Beck] How does Your Majesty view Jordan's relations with the Palestinian entity—or state—in the Middle East of the future?

"I both hope and believe that the peace process will continue and that we are on the way toward a full peace. As I have said, I fully support the Palestinians in their endeavors and think it enormously important that dialogue has gotten off to a good start between Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians. I have never been one for sweeping, hypothetical visions, but I am certain that Jordan will have close and good relations with the Palestinians. But we have to start from the ground up, at the grass roots. Consolidate the situation and work out new ideas and plans for the good of both them and us," King Husayn said, adding almost enthusiastically:

""Now that we seem to be on our way toward peace, we are able to move toward horizons which I scarcely thought possible in the past."

[Beck] Why did you decide nevertheless to hold the multiparty elections for a new parliament on 8 November? You had said earlier that the elections could be postponed because you feared that the Jordanians in general and the Palestinians in particular would see them as a "yes" or "no" to the peace process.

"The elections are important for Jordan, to safeguard democracy and human rights, so we decided not to postpone them; we had no real reason to do so. And in addition all the citizens of Jordan are Jordanians—and everyone can vote where they want," the king said.

In the past he has made it clear that no one will be able to vote in both the elections in Jordan and the elections for the autonomous administration in Gaza in July next year. King Husayn said that the elections will be yet another step toward democracy and that the Jordanians will elect a parliament "which can help me with the enormous responsibility I carry—without harming the interests of the Palestinians."

"Remember that Jordan is the only country which has backed dual citizenship for the Palestinians vis-a-vis the various Arab countries."

However, the king made it clear that this is something which the Arab League will have to reach a decision on.

[Beck] 3ut several Palestinian leaders have said that they are looking forward to a confederation between the new Palestinian entity and Jordan, and that they do not rule out the possibility that such a confederation will develop into a "Palestinian Jordan," more or less swallowed up by the Palestinian majority in the population.

"We have no majorities or minorities in Jordan: All are Jordanian citizens. Also, I have seen and heard so many statements and so much propaganda. We simply have to wait and see and let people at ground level decide. But as long ago as 1972 I put forward a proposal for a Palestinian-Jordanian federation," the king said.

What at the time—March 1972—was described as King Husayn's most courageous political move was the launch of a plan for a united Arab kingdom: Jordan, with Amman as capital, and the Palestinian entity, with Jerusalem as capital, would enter into a federation. Each of the regions would be fully autonomous, but a federal council of ministers would be set up and King Husayn would reign over both entities.

[Beck] How do you view developments between Jordan and Israel?

"We have made a good start on a dialogue; much work has already been done. We had to wait and see for a long time, move cautiously because there were so many things to take into account. There is still a long way to go, but I am convinced that a peace settlement between us and Israel will also come."

[Beck] Can Your Majesty either confirm or deny that a few weeks ago you had a personal meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in al-'Aqabah?

"I will be able to answer that question at some point in the future—but I will do so first for the Jordanians," the king said with a smile.

He believes that the time for open borders between Israel, the Palestinian entity, and Jordan is approaching—and that there could "soon" be a visit to Jordan by an Israeli head of state. Cooperation with the Israelis in fields such as water resources, energy, and the environment will get under way quickly. Hitherto there has been quiet, unofficial cooperation. But he made no secret of the fact that full recognition is still some way away—and that the Jerusalem question is a very important issue, not only for the Palestinians, but for all Arabs.

"Rightly enough the focus has for the time being moved away from the negotiations between Israel and Syria, but I believe that soon, yes, I expect that very soon there will be an agreement between Israel and Syria and also Lebanon. However, the kernel of a peace in the region is and remains the relationship between Israelis and Palestinians," the king said.

Today he says that he is happy with Jordan's role in the peace process, but admits that economically Jordan has felt itself to be on the sidelines to an extent.

"We have had problems, because we have directly experienced all the tragedies that have arisen in the region. But I am happy with the multilateral talks in Washington on economic support for the Middle East. I do not expect that the whole of our problem of a foreign debt of $6 billion will be solved, but people have promised to 'take a close look at it.'"

[Beck] Both Jordanian and foreign media have been concerned about your state of health, and there has been speculation about whether it had anything to do with your active involvement in the peace process vis-a-vis Israel?

King Husayn smiled warmly, patted himself on the stomach with both hands, and said that his state of health is excellent.

"I was examined last week and everything was tip-top. I will soon go back for two further examinations that are completely routine, doctors say. It was cancer, but it seems to have gone. The time between checkups has increased from four to six months, so that should be reassuring enough," King Husayn said.

Prime Minister: Israeli Court Ruling Threatens Peace

JN1110144193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali conferred at the Prime Ministry today with ambassadors accredited to the Royal Hashemite Court. The prime minister explained Jordan's position on the 23 September 1993 Israeli High Court ruling on holy al-Aqsa Mosque. This ruling termed the holy shrines as inseparable parts of Jerusalem, which Israeli authorities unilaterally annexed to Israel. This ruling viewed holy al-Aqsa Mosque as coming under Israeli sovereignty and subject to Israeli law, mandate and regulation concerning the reconstruction, construction, restoration, and maintenance the Islamic awqaf in Jerusalem carries out in coordination with the Jordanian Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry.

The prime minister said the Israeli court ruling gives extremist religious groups, named as Temple Mount faithfuls, the right of tutelage and legitimacy over the holy mosque, which they call the Temple Mount.

The prime minister said the Israeli court ruling is based on the Israeli claim that the Jews' relationship with the holy mosque site goes back to 3,000 B.C. Based on this claim, this court asked concerned Israeli quarters to emphasize and intensify their control and supervision of the archaeological and historical sites. The court blamed these authorities for failing to stop what it termed the violations of law at al-Aqsa Mosque by Islamic awqaf establishments.

The prime minister added that this Israeli court ruling is a blatant violation and open aggression against the religious, legal, and political of rights of the Arabs and Muslims in the holy city.

He said this ruling, adopted 10 days after the signing of the declaration of principles between the PLO and Israel and nine days after the signing the agenda between Jordan and Israel, reflects Israel's real intentions toward peace and questions its credibility.

He said that giving the extremists and fanatics in Israel a free hand to undermine Islamic rights in the holy places, in addition to the statements of the Israeli officials to this effect, threatens the peace process and bolsters extremism in the region.

The prime minister emphasized that Muslims, who have shouldered the trust and the responsibility of Jerusalem and its holy places of all religions since 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab's Covenant, will never accept the fait accompli represented in the illegitimate Israeli occupation, and will not relinquish the inalienable rights that His Majesty King Husayn emphasizes, represented in his instant instructions to the government to take the appropriate measures on all Arab, Islamic, regional, and international levels to confront this ruling.

The prime minister emphasized that the restoration activities in al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, which are financed by a generous donation by His Majesty King Husayn, will continue, and that any interference or attempt to harm them, whether directly or indirectly by any official or unofficial Israeli quarter, will lead to repercussions and confrontations in the city of peace.

At the end of the meeting, the prime minister asked the heads of the diplomatic missions to convey this position

to their governments in order to take the steps they deem appropriate to confront this ruling and its results, and to support the Jordanian position, which represents the Arab and Islamic position on this subject.

The heads of missions were handed a memorandum on this subject.

The meeting was attended by the minister of state for cabinet affairs, the minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs, and the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry.

Memorandum Denounces Israeli Court Ruling

JN0910182393 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1535 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Amman 9 Oct (PETRA)—The Jordanian Government has denounced a 23 September Israeli court ruling. The ruling prompted the so-called Temple Mount Faithful to call on the court on 1 October to order a halt to all ongoing restoration at al-Aqsa Mosque.

Jordan's position was spelled out in an urgent memorandum handed by 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Abbadi, the awqaf and Islamic affairs minister, to ambassadors of Arab and Muslim states in Amman today. The Foreign Ministry's secretary general attended the meeting at the ministry.

The memorandum stressed that the Israeli court measure is detrimental to the holy shrines and the historical and legal rights of Arabs and Muslims in Jerusalem, as well as being offensive to the world Muslim community and its religious sensibilities. Furthermore, the court ruling, the memorandum said, runs counter to Israel's professions of an interest in peace.

The memorandum stressed that the Jordanian Government takes an extremely serious view of the Israeli court decision. It called on the international community to move to block Israeli moves in this regard, and noted that the Jordanian al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock Restoration Commission's maintenance work is being carried out on Islamic property and shrines to safeguard their sanctity and historical worth.

The memorandum said Islamic trust authorities in Jerusalem affiliated with the Jordanian Government challenge the court's prerogative to issue a ruling affecting al-Aqsa Mosque, and, therefore, will not recognize it.

The al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock Restoration Commission, formed under a Jordanian law enacted in 1954, will be unhindered and will follow through with the maintenance effort—paid for by His Majesty King Husayn—planned for completion by the end of March, 1994, the memorandum stated.

Following his meeting with the ambassadors, al-'Abbadi said the Cabinet decided to set up a special committee to pursue this serious matter. The committee—composed of the ministers of information and awqaf and religious affairs, the minister of state for legal affairs, the minister of state for foreign affairs, the chief justice, and the secretary general of the Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs—will be part of a plan to be pursued in the Arab, Islamic, and international arenas.

The idea, he explained, is to alert the Arab and Muslim world to their responsibilities at this critical juncture in the history of our nation.

Experts on international law at the ministry are now drafting a legal memorandum to authenticate and document Arab and Islamic rights in Jerusalem, he said.

The minister indicated that His Majesty King Husayn takes a deep personal interest in the matter and that the issue has an Arab and Islamic, as well as a Jordanian dimension. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Comments on PLO-Israel Accord

JN1010163793 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 10 Oct 93 p 4

[Interview with Jordanian Information Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwar by Nabil Ghayshan in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ghayshan] Political developments in the region are brewing. In your opinion, what is Jordan's future position and role in these developments?

[Abu-Nuwar] Jordan's presence in the heart of the Arab world dictates that it should play a principal role in transportation, trade, and communications. Also, the development and growth of the concepts of freedom and constitutional life, which are being entrenched day after day, are making Jordan a model in the region. Let met also say that stability gives Jordan a special role to play.

[Ghayshan] Does the Government not fear the attempts seeking to curtail Jordan's role in the future?

[Abu-Nuwar] Those who think that Jordan is standing on the sidelines, or on the fringes, are mistaken. I think they will be sorry if they continue to harbor such illusions because Jordan has an important role and it cannot be ignored under any circumstance. [passage omitted]

[Ghayshan] Certain news agencies quoted Jordanian ministers as saying that Palestinian refugees from the 1967 war cannot exercise the right to vote in the elections in Jordan and the occupied territories simultaneously. What kind of mechanism is there to implement this move?

[Abu-Nuwar] You cannot vote in Amman and al-Karak at the same time. This is impermissible, and dual nationality is impermissible. Any citizen who has a name in the electorate lists can vote in the forthcoming elections and no one on Earth can prevent him from voting.

[Ghayshan] But the expected elections in the occupied territories will come after the Jordanian elections. People who voted in the Jordanian elections can also vote in the elections in the occupied territories?

[Abu-Nuwar] He is free to do what he wants. Assume a citizen comes to me and says: I do not want your Jordanian nationality and I wish to become a Palestinian. I would say: You are welcome. We will withdraw your Jordanian nationality at your request. In that case, he will have no name in the list of voters in the next Jordanian parliamentary elections. If a citizen casts his vote in the elections next month and then had his nationality withdrawn at his own request and went to the West Bank and cast his vote in the elections there, then this is normal. We stress that we will not withdraw the nationality from our Palestinian brothers and will not impose Jordanian nationality on anyone.

[Ghayshan] How do you view Jordan's relations with its Arab brethren? Has Jordan begun to circumvent the repercussions of the second Gulf war?

[Abu-Nuwar] Our relationship with the Arab brethren has not changed since His Majesty King Husayn assumed his constitutional powers. His majesty calls for Arab unity and understanding. He adopted genuine Arab positions and made great sacrifices which were about to turn Jordan itself into a victim for the sake of Arabism and Islam.

Our position was clear during the Gulf war. We wanted to see no Arab state harmed, Iraq withdraw from Kuwait, and Kuwait regain its independence, government, and amir. We did not demand anything else, and the Kuwaiti flag has been flown in Amman ever since. We did not carry out any action, and the Jordanian Government did not say anything that would harm Kuwait or other Arab states. On the contrary, Jordan was the first country to call for an Arab solution to this problem, so no Iraqi, Kuwaiti, Saudi, or U.S. individual would be killed. We wanted a peaceful solution to this issue. Despite all that afflicted us, our position on Iraq, Kuwait, the brothers in the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia has not changed. We are still the people who love their nation without exceptions. I took media measures and did my best to prevent any behavior in the Jordanian media that could harm any fraternal Arab state. [passage omitted]

[Ghayshan] Do you believe Jordanian-Gulf relations, particularly with Kuwait, will resume soon?

[Abu-Nuwar] We hope so, although some sisterly Kuwaiti newspapers are still angry and publish strange things out of anger, which does not befit them after all that has happened. I believe it is in the interest of those in Kuwait to think before making unnecessary and futile utterances that only provoke disputes and estrangement. It is time for fraternal Kuwait to see the new world order and learn that it could isolate itself from this order, which will emerge without Kuwait if the latter continues its current angry attitude. [passage omitted]

[Ghayshan] They are talking about the media before and the media after the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement, in terms of changing the language and terminology. What have you prepared for the new Jordanian information system?

[Abu-Nuwar] We are now experiencing a new Jordanian information system. Our media are objective, and the overwhelming majority of our newspapers, along with the official media, enjoy high standard of ethics, and our language is refined and objective and capable of conveying a good image to the world.

[Ghayshan] What about press terminology and language?

[Abu-Nuwar] An enemy will remain an enemy until I sign a peace agreement with him, and a foe will remain so until I agree with him. When Israel stops the killing of innocent people in Palestine, ends its occupation of lands in Wadi al-'Arabah, gives me my water, and after I agree, in a peace treaty with Israel, on everything, it will remain my foe while I am holding negotiations with it. I believe Jordanian media are objective and abide by the international traditions and norms in the full sense of the word.

[Ghayshan] Israeli radio recently lauded the performance of the official Jordanian media. What is your comment?

[Abu-Nuwar] I do not ask Israel to laud or assail me, and it is free to do whatever it pleases. I am not in a position to flirt with Israel because there is no relationship between us. I do not want to comment on this matter. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince Hasan Meets Pope, Discuss Jerusalem

JN1110194793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan met with His Holiness Pope John Paul II in the Vatican this afternoon. His highness stopped over in Rome on his way back from his official visit to the United States, where he delivered Jordan's speech at the UN General Assembly's ordinary session in New York.

During their meeting, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and his holiness the pope discussed recent developments in the Middle East peace process. His holiness the pope expressed his admiration for Jordan's major role in finding solutions to problems in the region and achieving stability in it.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan explained to his holiness the pope the dimensions of the Israeli court ruling concerning al-Aqsa Mosque as well as Jordan's efforts to maintain the religious and urban characteristics of the holy city because of its great importance to the inhabitants of this region and the world and to all religions.

His holiness the pope reaffirmed the Vatican's stand toward Jerusalem and the holy places, expressing the

Vatican's appreciation of His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to restore the holy places and maintain the city's characteristic. His highness discussed with his holiness the pope the role which the Vatican can play in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region. He reiterated Jordan's firm stand toward the Palestinian issue which is based on supporting the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights on their national soil.

His holiness the pope expressed his admiration for the high level Jordan has reached in improving all its people's lives socially, economically, and culturally and enhancing its levels of development. His holiness the pope asked His Highness Crown Prince Hasan to convey his heart felt regards to His Majesty King Husayn.

The meeting was attended by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the delegation accompanying His Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

Prince, UK's Hurd Confer in London

JN1110172693 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has received in London British Foreign Secretary Mr. Douglas Hurd. Mr. Hurd pointed out that his meeting with the crown prince came within the framework of the British interest in maintaining dialogue with concerned parties to the peace process in the region.

At the meeting, his highness and the British official reviewed bilateral relations and exchanged views on the latest Middle East peace developments.

Mr. Hurd expressed his appreciation to Jordan's practical role and Jordan's economic and social responsibilities towards the continued waves of refugees and evacuees as well as Jordan's endeavor to crystallize a concept of security and stability in the region.

Crown Prince's Meeting With Peres Criticized

JN0810141293 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 9 Oct 93 p 4

["Silence Impermissible" column by Fahd al-Rimawi]

[Text] We know the exact identity of that "genius" of the adviser who persuaded the crown prince to shake hands with Peres, hold a dialogue with him, and approve the formation of a tripartite Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli economic development committee.

It was neither in Jordan's interest nor in the interest of the crown prince to act in such a manner, causing our hearts to bleed as we watched the spectacle on television live from the White House last Friday [1 October] because it contradicts with a number of national, constitutional, and Hashemite facts that cannot be ignored or jumped over.

From the nationalist viewpoint, how can the crown prince, whom we look on as Jordan's future leader, shake hands with an enemy with whom we are still at war and who is still occupying Jordanian territory? How can this happen when our negotiating delegation is still carrying out its tasks which have not yet reached the stage of signing a peace treaty or agreement that could place the Israeli entity among peaceful states that Jordan could hold dialogue or cooperate with?

Constitutionally, the crown prince has no official powers or responsibilities as long as his majesty is present and active and as long as the government, which constitutionally has the political jurisdiction and executive power, does not officially authorize him or legally delegate to him the duties of deputizing for it or acting on its behalf.

From the Hashemite standpoint, Arab history has devoted the brightest pages to the Hashemite good deeds and sacrifices. The Sherifs [noblemen of King Husayn's tribe] of Mecca have been the most prominent Arab heroes who would rather die than commit a bad deed and court martyrdom rather than submit to slavery. Even if Jordan were forced to make peace with the Israeli enemy and bow its head until the American storm had blown over, this could be done by the changeable governments and not by the Hashemite figures which should remain sublime and above reproach, just like Japanese Emperor Hirohito who remained a lofty symbol despite his country's defeat in World War II.

The crown prince did not have to carry out the tasks of normalizing before signing, shaking hands before making peace, forming an economic cooperation committee, or penetrating the psychological barrier before political negotiations reach their final results. Jordan is not in a hurry. It is not in its interest to employ the policy of jumps, gambles, or shocks. It is not Jordan's business to compete with or outrun the 'Arafat gang, which through the Gaza-Jericho agreement, has landed itself in a sea of uncertainty under the roof of Shulamit [Aloni, pro-Palestinian Israeli education and culture minister].

Jordan does not live on financial assistance. Likewise, appeasing the United States will not provide Jordan with security, stability, or social tranquility. Perhaps the contrary is entirely true. Stability is the condition for investment and prosperity. The historical harmony between the leadership and the [popular] base has always been the fail-safe valve against wrongs and threats, and the lightning rod that prevents the outbreak of fire.

The saddest thing for us is the possibility that the crown prince's step might seem to be an affirmation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, support for 'Arafat's policy, and a relaxation of the siege around him, now that he has lost much of his popularity and credibility and has become a condemned loser, given the difference between the little he accepted and the large offers the Jordanian leadership had been given before the disengagement declaration [with the West Bank].

In the past, during martial law, the other view was prevented from being aired and the Jordanian decision-maker was incapable of seeing the other side of the popular picture. Now, that we have gone a long way on the road to democracy, the opposition should not hide its convictions, smother its courage, or fake stands unless this opposition is cross-eyed and sees only the speck in the eyes of Syria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the PLO and not in the eye of Jordan.

We conclude with the old saying of a wise man: The candle that is not lit does not give light.

Prince Talks With Peres Defended

JN0810130693 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Oct 93 p 22

["Headlines" column by Dr. Fahd al-Fanik: "Hasan's Meeting With Peres and Clinton"]

[Text] The public meeting between His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the White House, in the presence of U.S. President Clinton, would have been impossible before 13 September 1993. The historic handshake between 'Arafat and Rabin removed all obstacles.

At first blush, some Jordanians wished that the meeting had been held at the foreign ministers level. But, if it were not for what the prince represents on Jordanian, Arab, and Islamic levels, the meeting would not have taken place at the White House under Clinton's patronage; neither would the U.S. President have spoken, for the first time, about writing off Jordan's debts.

What the prince did was to deliver a preemptive strike that gave Jordan back its position on top of events following attempts to push it to the rear and act behind its back. It also closed the door in the face of U.S. pressures to bring an early end to the Arab boycott of Israel and begin normalization before the signing of a peace treaty, which enables Jordan to regain its usurped rights in borders and waters; guarantees the return of refugees; and protects against aggression and threats.

Jordan did not lose a thing from this public meeting, which was held under U.S. patronage. We have been in a state of official negotiations with Israel for two years now, and a few week ago, Ambassador Fayiz al-Tarawinah signed for Jordan an official document with the Israeli side. In today's world, all channels must remain open, even between enemies and during times of war, not to mention when there is a move toward peace.

On the other hand, Jordan has benefited a great deal in political, strategic, and economic terms. The meeting produced some immediate results with a move to write off Jordan's debts, or part of them, and ensure Jordan's right to development funds on a regional basis.

The Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. tripartite committee can ensure Jordan's right to participate in making the decisions that influence its interests now and in the future. This is better than showing a negative attitude and leaving others to decide vital issues in Jordan's absence and at its expense.

A joint Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. committee will be better able to defend Jordan's interests than a joint Palestinian-Israeli committee. This is because the Palestinian side does not have a sufficient degree of sovereignty to enable it to reject any unfair tendency. Therefore, Jordan will, though this committee, protect its own interests and help serve Arab interests, which cannot be guaranteed by the self-rule authority.

Prince Hasan's meeting with Peres and Clinton mean that Jordan cannot be surpassed, and that its national interests cannot be ignored. It also means that the economic boycott will end on our own terms only.

King Bids Farewell to Croatia-Bound Battalion

JN0910171993 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Amman, 9 Oct (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, bid farewell to the first group of the second battalion of Jordanian peacekeeping forces bound for Croatia, which left this morning.

On arrival at the Amman civil airport, his majesty was welcomed by Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the assistant chief of staff for manpower; and a number of senior officers. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Bans Official Interference in Elections

JN1110152293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has issued an official statement, prohibiting all government employees, public institutions, local authorities, and the Jordanian Armed Forces from launching any electoral campaigns or interfering in favor of any candidate during the elections. The statement prohibits giving employees engaged in the parliamentary elections any leave which prevents them from fulfilling their duties.

The prime minister also issued an official statement, instructing all governors, district officials, and employees in their constituencies to work on Friday, 15 October 1993, from 0800 to 1400, in order to receive applications of candidacy for the parliamentary elections in conformity with the regulations.

Prime Minister: Government To Maintain Nation's Security

JN1110144793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said: We are well aware of the political, financial, and

security aspects of the effects of regional developments on us. This requires all of us to work together and cooperate with a high spirit of responsibility. He added that our main concern is to maintain this country and its security and stability so everyone can live in security and prosperity regardless of temptations and challenges. He said Jordan will not abandon its Arab nation and will not hesitate to offer everthing that reinforces the steadfastness of our nation under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn.

Chairing a meeting for the consultative economic council at the Prime Ministry this morning, Dr. al-Majali said the government is constantly seeking appropriate mechanisms to improves the efficiency of this council's operation. He reaffirmed that the government will seek to consider everything the council achieves in its economic and development program.

Minister on Possibility of Writing Off Foreign Debts

JN1110091193 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 11 Oct 93 p 4

[By Faysal al-Shubul]

[Excerpt] Industry and Commerce Minister Dr. Bassam al-Sakit has expressed his belief that, during 1994, Jordan will witness a lot of economic activity despite caution on the part of some investors. In a statement to AL-ASWAQ, al-Sakit noted that major countries and international organizations, particularly the United States and the World Bank, are currently studying the possibility of writing off Jordan's foreign debts.

The industry and commerce minister said: Jordan will welcome any economic growth in the occupied West Bank and Gaza when they come under national Palestinian authority. He added that, during the self-rule period, Jordan will become the destination of the monetary flow, or at least the monetary transit point, which seeks to finance the infrastructure projects in the occupied Arab territory. [passage omitted]

Paper Warns Against West's Policy of 'Double Standards'

JN0810114093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Oct 93 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "Hasan Warns Against Double Standards"]

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has warned against the dangers posed by the misuse of law. His highness said such misuse could become an acceptable rule. This warning was uttered in the course of his highness the prince's demand not to resort to double standards in addressing issues of a similar nature.

Although His Highness Prince Hasan did not give details, it is definite that all those who are wise and committed to values, ethics, and international charters realize that numerous and serious encroachments have taken place in dealing with frank and clear international resolutions. These resolutions used to be explained according to the desires of either those who benefited from them or those who would be harmed if a logical explanation of these resolutions was made. Moreover, some resolutions were implemented by force and others were ignored. This is because the interests of the big regional and international powers necessitated the partial implementation of both the international legitimacy and its resolutions at a time when other resolutions were not implemented. Although his highness was content with warning against the misuse of law, which could become an acceptable rule, the misuse of law is actually taking place. What happened to international legitimacy and its resolutions in former Yugoslavia, Iraq, Somalia, and in the Arab-Israeli conflict all confirm that there is an aggression on this legitimacy, a disregard of many resolutions, and obvious schemes to only implement the UN resolutions that serve the big powers.

The international community has continued to anxiously watch the ethnic war in former Yugoslavia at a time when the big capitals have been content with explicitly denouncing and implicitly encouraging the liquidation of Muslims in racial and ethnic massacres. These massacres condemn both the West and its numerous allegations. Likewise, when the so-called UN troops went to rescue the Somalis from both the real and televised famines shown to us day and night, the world was surprised that, after these troops arrived in Somalia, "Operation Restore Hope" turned into an organized slaughter campaign carried out by the so-called UN troops. Moreover, Iraq is facing a Western scheme which no other people in the history of mankind has seen. This scheme targets Iraq's Arab and Islamic identities and also its children, ill people, culture, and lofty head, which is raised with dignity. Perhaps, the aggression against Iraq, carried out six months after UN resolutions were issued against it, still evokes the indignation of the international community, Arabs, and Muslims, who still await the implementation of resolutions concerning their homelands. Some of these resolutions were issued in the late forties and others in the sixties. The big powers, however, have done nothing to force Israel into complying with a single resolution.

Double standards disclose the seriousness of the racist intentions. These intentions turn humans into murderers who love to watch victims who have no means to resist their murderers. However, the future heralds many terrible and also many reassuring things. This is because there is in the world now a return to the spiritual and ethical values, which will make it difficult for tanks and aircraft to reach their targets. Faith that lies deep in the hearts is not an easy target for the racist states. These states are terrified when they see one of their soldiers in jail, but are not terrified by the fact that thousands of children die everyday from hunger or disease or from the bullets of soldiers who were brought up to believe that killing constitutes their civilized national identity!

Buwayz Meets Christopher on Peace Process

NC0810181493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz held a meeting this evening with his U.S. counterpart, Warren Christopher. Christopher said before the meeting that the United States wants progress on the rest of the negotiating tracks. Christopher added: I spoke to Minister Buwayz many times about how the peace process can be speeded up. I take this opportunity to renew the U.S. commitment to Lebanon's independence and the unity of its territories.

Minister Buwayz said the peace based on the Madrid conference principles is the only acceptable peace. After the meeting, Minister Buwayz said: We still adhere to a comprehensive and total peace and Arab solidarity. Answering a question, he affirmed: I have clarified that any technical progress does not mean that we have diverted from the principle of solidarity or comprehensive and total peace. [passage omitted]

Comments on Talks

NC0910075493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher met in Washington yesterday and reviewed developments in the peace process. Buwayz stressed Lebanon's position of rejecting separate solutions. Minutes before meeting with Christopher, Buwayz said: I believe that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is a psychological breakthrough but must be followed by advanced steps on other tracks, particularly the Lebanese and Syrian tracks. He added: We believe that peace based on the principles of the Madrid Conference is the only one that is acceptable and viable in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Buwayz said:

[Begin Buwayz recording] Secretary Christopher believes that formation of a joint military committee will ensure progress in the Israeli-Lebanese talks. We are not opposed to this idea as a goal and mechanism, but we believe that before this committee is formed, the goals of this committee must be defined clearly and precisely.

We realize that the U.S. Administration is aware of the need for Lebanon's return to the regional and international theater. We learned that the U.S. Administration knows full well that Lebanon's total sovereignty over all its territories is the only guarantee for its resumption of its role.

I believe that progress in the peace process will change the nature of Lebanese-U.S. ties, which saw some coolness in the past few years due to certain events. As a matter or fact, there is the so-called technical progress, which may not be in synch on all tracks of the peace talks. There is also the psychological progress in the peace talks. We are still committed to a comprehensive and total peace and Arab solidarity on this issue. However, this does not prevent progress in technical steps to facilitate things, whether on the Lebanese, Syrian, or Palestinian tracks. [end recording]

Expects Agreements With Israel

NC0910082493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Report by correspondent Nuhad al-Hayik in Washington]

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz expects declarations of principles between Lebanon and Israel and Syria and Israel to be reached before the end of the year. He said he sensed no conviction on the part of the U.S. Administration that the Gaza-Jericho agreement constitutes peace, but an incomplete step that can be completed only through the Lebanese and Syrian tracks.

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] The impact of this is manifest in an intensive U.S. concern about the Lebanese and Syrian tracks. There is interest in supporting and pushing forward these two tracks so that they will lead to a so-called declaration of principles or declaration of intentions before the end of this year.

[Al-Hayik] You mean that this is what the Americans want at this stage?

[Buwayz] Yes, yes. Hence the dispatch of Mr. Dennis Ross to the region late this month and the travel of Secretary Christopher to the region in mid-November. [end recording]

Discussing the outcome of his visit to Washington, Minister Buwayz told Voice of Lebanon that for the first time since the negotiations with Israel started, he had heard clear and explicit American talk going as far as presenting compromise proposals to the parties.

Asked how Lebanon would react if Israel announces its readiness to implement Security Council Resolution 425 before withdrawal from the Golan, Buwayz said Lebanon would welcome that and begin to shoulder its responsibilities immediately, but would not sign a peace treaty with Israel except in solidarity with the other Arab countries.

[Begin Buwayz recording] Lebanon welcomes any Israeli implementation of Resolution 425. Lebanon is ready to accept this and begin shouldering its related responsibilities immediately. This issue is not linked to the general Arab-Israeli case. But there is another factor: peace. Peace is an Arab-Israeli matter, and Lebanon has announced from the beginning that it is in solidarity with the Arab parties in this respect. Peace must be comprehensive, and Lebanon will not sign a peace accord with Israel except in solidarity with the rest of the Arab countries. [end recording]

Concerning the U.S. ban imposed on Lebanon, the Lebanese foreign minister said the ban decision was made by the administration of former President Ronald

Reagan, and no one in the current administration wants to take the responsibility for lifting it. Buwayz, however, believes that his contacts with the U.S. officials have created a favorable climate that would affect the still-cautious U.S. Administration.

Prime Minister Leaves for Damascus Talks

NC1110082693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri headed for Damascus at 0930 today to hold talks with Syrian officials on current developments.

Al-Hariri Returns, Comments

NC1210070393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad spent five hours with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in Damascus yesterday. Al-Hariri returned to Beirut last night and is expected to brief President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri on the visit to Syria.

The talks went on over a working luncheon attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

Official Syrian presidential spokesman Jubran Kuriyah said the talks focused on the Middle East peace process and bilateral practical cooperation and coordination to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

In a statement before leaving the Syrian capital, Prime Minister al-Hariri stressed that Lebanon will conclude no agreement with Israel separately from Syria, which he knows is taking the same position because the two countries' interests are closely interlinked. Al-Hariri said Lebanese and Syrian interests are so intertwined that neither can act separately from the other. He noted the importance of having the peace agreements based on the international resolutions sanctioned as the terms of reference for the peace process.

Al-Hariri said Israel must be willing to withdraw from all the Golan to keep the peace process on its tracks. If not, the peace process will become complicated and opposition to it will develop.

He reiterated that Lebanon rejects any splitting of the solution on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks. He said: We will allow no progress on the Lebanese track in the peace negotiations at the expense of the Syrian track.

Sources close to the prime minister told the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY that the meeting between President al-Asad and Prime Minister al-Hariri came within the context of the two countries' cooperation, consultations, and coordination, especially after Prime Minister al-Hariri's return from New York and his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and also following Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's return from Washington and his meetings with President Clinton and Secretary Christopher.

The sources said the meetings al-Hariri and al-Shar' held with U.S. officials made it necessary to jointly assess the outcome of the talks within the context of coordinating their positions and to achieve a comprehensive and just peace.

Returning to Beirut from Damascus last night, Prime Minister al-Hariri said he was satisfied with his talks with President al-Asad, which also dealt with bilateral and Lebanese affairs. He said: There will be no going back to the rounds of peace negotiations before Secretary Christopher and U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross arrive in the region. We will see how things progress in light of their tour.

Al-Hariri said the U.S. Administration is backing the peace process and called on it to turn this backing in the direction that achieves a just and comprehensive peace.

Al-Hariri: No Peace Without Syrian Involvement

NC1110073093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] In an interview with NEWSWEEK, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri stressed that Syrian and Lebanese interests are interlocked to such an extent as to make it necessary for both countries' involvement in any peace agreement with Israel.

He said that Lebanon will not sign a peace treaty with Israel if Syria is not involved, and Syria will do the same, because our national interests are closely linked.

The prime minister emphasized that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad believes in peace but will accept nothing less than the full return of the Golan. He warned that if Israel is not serious in withdrawing from the Golan, then the situation will start to deteriorate. He added that a delay in reaching a settlement with Syria and Lebanon will only increase the opposition to peace.

Al-Hariri went on to say that Washington has to intensify its efforts, including the shuttle diplomacy of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and to act as quickly as possible to speed up the peace process steps.

Minister Says No Separate Peace With Israel

NC1110080693 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Labor Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin, in Beirut, by Fawzi al-Jundi in Cairo; carried on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Jundi] Mr. Minister, allow me to ask a question about the security aspect of the south Lebanon issue. If Israel declares its intention to

withdraw from the south, are you ready to form a joint military committee with it, as it has demanded?

[Al-Amin] We made our position known to more than one party on several occasions during the rounds of negotiations in Washington. First of all, we want Israel to declare its recognition of UN Security Council Resolution 425 and its willingness to fully withdraw from Lebanese territories. When this happens, the Lebanese Government might accept a UN-sponsored plan for the withdrawal. Israel consistently rejects this and always demands only what it wants, not what Lebanon wants. Its basic condition is the signing of a peace treaty with Lebanon before it will discuss a withdrawal and recognize the UN resolutions.

[Al-Jundi] Would you accept a separate Lebanese-Israeli peace treaty without Syria or are you linking your case with the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Al-Amin] We have announced this position several times and reemphasize it now: Lebanon will never pursue a separate peace with Israel. We are pursuing a peace plan with all the Arabs, not separately. We will not accept a separate peace under any pressure. We realize that Israel is exerting pressure on us and perhaps will exert greater pressure in the future. However, our position on this issue will not change: Peace must be full and comprehensive. After Israel withdraws from all the occupied Arab territories, the Arabs will make a decision on peace. Certainly the Arabs have a real desire to establish a just peace in this region.

[Al-Jundi] Minister al-Amin, do you believe that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement which was signed in Washington on 13 September has given impetus to the peace process or on the contrary only eclipsed the other parties, particularly Syria and Lebanon?

[Al-Amin] We do not think that any development can eclipse Syria and Lebanon. We believe and know—the whole world knows—that no peace plans can succeed without Lebanon and Syria. We are confident of this. The Gaza-Jericho agreement will have absolutely no effect on us. [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi: Jazzin Plan 'Not in Cards'

NC0810180293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has stressed that Lebanon is approaching a new period of challenges. He called on everyone to face this period with greater solidarity and cooperation.

The president announced that Israel's continued attacks on Lebanon are not the result of katyushas fired from this or that area, but because Israel realizes that Lebanon is a thorn in its side in this stage of peace.

Lawyer Sa'ib Matarji, who visited President al-Hirawi leading a delegation of the society for defending Beirut's rights, cited al-Hirawi as saying that the proposal for a withdrawal from Jazzin first is not in the cards. Al-Hirawi announced that the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 is the only thing Lebanon will negotiate.

President al-Hirawi emphasized that Lebanon has made up its mind to rebuild the state and the homeland, noting that it is impermissible to dispute or bargain with the state's decisions.

Commenting on domestic issues, President al-Hirawi said that there is an emphasis on issues concerning the public, such as speeding up the rebuilding of the country's infrastructure.

Al-Hirawi concluded his remarks by pointing out that cooperation and coordination with Syria will continue to help attain a just and comprehensive peace.

Rejects Bilateral Pacts

NC0910065293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Excerpt] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has said that Lebanon adheres to its stand rejecting bilateral agreements with Israel. He said: We are eager to achieve peace and to approach peace through a wide door, but we are not prepared to lose one inch of our land. He stressed that Lebanon's position is definite and firm and that it will only agree to be together, particularly with fraternal Syria, in a realistic peace after the liberation of our land. He said that as long as our territory and our Syrian brothers' territory remain occupied, no one can force any decision on us.

Al-Hirawi made this statement during an interview with Lebanon Television, during which first lady Muna al-Hirawi also made some remarks. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Rejects 'Jazzin First' Idea

NC1010173893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Excerpt] National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul today announced his rejection of the Jazzin-First idea and said that it was a plan of war and massacres. He stressed that Lebanon is clinging to a comprehensive withdrawal and a just peace that would bring security to all the countries in the region.

Minister Dallul yesterday evening met residents of Barr Ilyas in Central al-Biqa' in a mass rally, where he discussed domestic and regional issues. [passage omitted]

'Extreme Tension' Following Israeli Attacks

NC0810122393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Excerpt] There was extreme tension in the security situation in the south and in the northern occupied territory [Israel] this morning and last night. Several

villages were the scene of continuous air and ground attacks. The attacks took place following a clash in which automatic weapons and hand grenades were used by Palestinian fighters and Israeli soldiers near a settlement in the northern occupied territory. One Israeli soldier was wounded.

Israeli artillery early this morning fired five shells at the outskirts of Shaqra, Bra'shit, and Haddathah from the occupation forces' positions in Bayt Yahun. The artillery shelling extended to the outskirts of Yuhmur, where shepherd Ahmad 'Ullayq was wounded and 30 goats were killed.

Later, Israeli military helicopters opened fire at a hill north of the border strip. [passage omitted]

Israel, SLA Continue Attacks

NC0810174593 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Our correspondent in the border area reports this evening that the Israeli forces are still carrying out raking operations after an Israeli patrol near [name indistinct] in northern Israel came under fire from inside Lebanese borders. South Lebanese Army [SLA] units are taking part in the sweeps.

Israeli forces raided a number of (?derelict) houses in Markaba Town, and found in one of them machine guns, rockets, and ammunition.

The Israeli forces are being supported by six helicopters that are hovering over the area.

PFLP-GC Carries Out Operation in Israel

NC0910071393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] The Ahmad Jibril-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC] carried out an operation in Nahariyya, northern Israel, at dawn today. Members of the front clashed with the Israeli army for 20 minutes. A PFLP-GC source told AFP in Sidon that the commandos, whose number and fate he did not discuss, arrived in Nahariyya after crossing the Lebanese border town of al-Naqurah.

Our security correspondent reports that Israeli helicopters are conducting extensive flights over al-Naqurah.

One Killed in Nahariyya Operation

NC0910122993 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] released a second statement today. It said that 'Ahd Marwan al-Banna, one of a group of three fighters, was martyred in a sea operation in Nahariyya. In an earlier statement, the PFLP claimed responsibility for a fedayeen operation on the northern coast of occupied Palestine at dawn today. A PFLP spokesman said that a fedayeen group had succeeded in getting through the Ra's al-Naqurah area by boat, landed near Nahariyya, and clashed with an Israeli army unit for 30 minutes at 0400 today. He said that a clash raged between the fedayeen group and the occupation forces in which Israeli helicopters and tanks were used. The clash left a large number of enemy personnel dead or injured.

Israeli Flights, Movements Reported

NC0910071593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Since 0500 this morning, Zionist aircraft have been flying over the Shihin and al-Naqurah areas. Our correspondent in the south reports that the aircraft are dropping illumination flares over the region. In the meantime, movement of vehicles in the areas of Shihin, Balat, and Yarin has been reported. Some security sources have reported that a major resistance operation was carried out in al-Naqurah. The Zionists have removed all [South Lebanese Army commander] Lahd's personnel from their positions in al-Naquragh and are carrying out an intensive sweep in the region by themselves.

Israeli Gunboats Cruise Coast

NC0910204293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Israeli gunboats have been cruising off the southern coast from al-Naqurah to Tyre since 2000 today. They came within 750 meters of Tyre, directing their floodlights on fishing boats moored at Tyre harbor. They also shot bursts of gunfire over the boats. The crew of the gunboats used loudspeakers to warn the fishermen not to sail and fish during the night until further notice.

Resistance Fighter Killed; Israeli Wounded

NC1010084193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Sources in the Islamic Resistance have said that a group attacked the Bi'r Kallab position with machine guns and rockets at 0630 today. According to the sources, the attack killed and wounded a number of Israeli soldiers and destroyed the position's fortifications. The Resistance admitted that one of its men, 'Abd-al-Mawla Isma'il, was killed.

Security sources have said that an Israeli soldier was wounded during the operation.

Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah reports that the Israeli troops bombarded Iqlim al-Tuffah hills after 0515 this morning, particularly Mlita, al-Luwayzah, the outskirts of the township of 'Arab Salim, (Nab' al-Tasah), and al-Wadi al-Akhdar. The bombardment came from the Israeli artillery emplacements in al-Zaffatah and Bi'r Kallab and was accompanied by raking operations with medium- and heavy-caliber machine guns.

Moreover, Wadi al-Saluqi and the outskirts of Bra'shit and Majdal Silm were hit by a number of shells from the opposing Israeli positions.

According to our correspondent in Tyre, Israeli gunboats have been intensively cruising along the coast off the city of Tyre since morning. The gunboats are deployed at the entrances to the ports of Tyre and al-Rashidiyah.

Israeli Gunboat Fires; Overflights Reported

NC1010113193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reports that an Israeli gunboat fired two rockets in the direction of al-Rashidiyah just before noon today and that the Israeli gunboats are still cruising along the coast extending from al-Naqurah to al-Qasimiyah. Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes are flying over the region.

Israeli Aircraft Stage Mock Raids

NC1010121793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Israeli warplanes carried out mock raids over Iqlim al-Tuffah at 0945 today. Three shells fell on Mlita hills and Jabal Safi.

Islamic Resistance Targets SLA Patrol

NC1110072393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] The men of the Islamic Resistance have carried out another heroic operation against the Zionists and their agents and inflicted heavy losses on them.

At 0615 today, the martyr 'Abd-al-Mawla Isma'il group of the Islamic Resistance attacked an infantry patrol belonging to [South Lebanese Army, SLA, commander Antoine] Lahd along the road to Tuhrah. Machine guns and rockets were used in the attack, which killed and wounded a number of the patrol members.

The Zionist enemy resumed its attacks against the south this morning. The outskirts of Kafr Rumman, Habbush, and al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the area surrounding the deserted army barracks in al-Nabatiyah came under mortar fire from enemy positions on the Tuhrah, al-Dabshah, and al-Zaffatah hills. This was accompanied by concentrated strafing with medium- and heavy-caliber machine guns.

The enemy's warplanes overflew al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah shortly after midnight last night. At dawn, the occupation troops fired a number of flares over the Nahr al-Litani River basin near Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah townships. Meanwhile, Zionist gunboats were seen cruising in Lebanese regional waters off Sarafand at midnight last night.

SLA: No Casualties

NC1110082893 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] position in Kafr Rumman came under mortar and rocket shelling from terrorists this morning. The shelling did not cause any casualties among the SLA personnel. The SLA immediately retaliated by shelling the sources of fire.

SLA Positions Under Fire

NC1110171393 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] According to our military correspondent, South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions in Bayt Yahun, Bra'shit, and Shaqif al-Naml this afternoon came under a 120-mm mortar barrage originating from the vicinity of 'Ayta al-Zutt and north of Bra'shit. In addition, several 107-mm Katyusha rockets were fired from Birkat Jabbur at Kafr Huna post.

The bombardment did not result in casualties in any of these centers. SLA artillery returned the fire at its sources and at saboteurs' targets north of the border zone. Our correspondent said Hizballah and the Amal Movement initiated the bombardment for no reason.

Israeli Bombardment in South

NC1110183293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] The security situation in the south deteriorated today as many villages and towns came under violent artillery bombardment that continued intermittently until this evening.

According to the latest reports from our correspondent there, at 1630 today the Israeli forces stationed on al-Ahmadiyah hills shelled 'Ayn al-Tinah and Maydun. Mlita, Jabal Safi, al-Luwayzah towns and the woods of Jarju' town in Iqlim al-Tuffah were still coming under large-caliber artillery shelling.

In another development at 1500 today, the Islamic Resistance and the Lebanese resistance battalions-Amal attacked a joint patrol of the Israeli occupation forces and agent Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] on the Bayt Yahun-Bra'shit Road. A clash with machine guns took place between the resistance men and the occupation forces, which subsequently shelled Bra'shit with rockets. The resistance men retaliated by firing at the source of the shelling in Bra'shit and Bayt Yahun. According to the resistance reports, a vehicle was destroyed and a number of the patrol members were killed and wounded.

The resistance this morning attacked a joint Lahdist-Israeli patrol on the Tuhrah-al-Dabshah Triangle with machine guns and rockets. In a statement, the Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility for the attack and said it killed and wounded many of the patrol members.

The occupation forces inside the occupied border strip this morning shelled Kafr Rumman town and Jabal 'Ali al-Tahir with large-caliber artillery. The shelling was accompanied by a raking operation in the Habbush River basin and 'Ali al-Tahir woods, which wounded Rasmiyyah Farhat, a 70-year-old female native of Kafr Rumman.

In Tyre our correspondent reports that Israeli warships and boats today cruised off the area between Tyre City and al-Naqurah and prevented fishermen from leaving the city's harbor. They fired in all directions to prevent fishing boats from doing their job. An Israeli warship fired a mortar shell at the coast, 50 meters away from the Tyre port.

[In a similar report, Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1715 GMT on 11 October reports: "Security sources said the resistance men attacked three SLA positions today. In a statement issued this afternoon, the Islamic Resistance and the Amal Movement said that in response to the Gaza-Jericho accord, a group carried out a joint attack on an SLA patrol on Bra'shit-Bayt Yahun Road with machine guns and rockets. The Israeli forces retaliated by shelling the outskirts of Bra'shit, Shaqra, and the nearby valleys."

[The radio adds: "At 1720 today, Jabal al-Rayhan and Iqlim al- Tuffah hills—particularly Mlita, Jabal Safi, and al-Luwayzah—came under intermittent artillery bombardment from the Israeli forces' positions inside the occupied strip. Earlier today, Hizballah directed machine-gun and mortar fire at an SLA post on al-Tuhrah hills."]

Resistance Claims Attacks

NC1210081093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] According to our correspondent in the south, at 2030 yesterday, the Martyr 'Abdallah Sha'th Group of the Islamic Resistance detonated an explosive charge as a Zionist infantry patrol of 12 elements passed by Wadi al-Saluqi near Tallusah, inflicting casualties on the enemy personnel. The Islamic Resistance mujahidin returned safely to base. The enemy retaliated by shelling Wadi al-Saluqi.

Our correpondent says the Islamic Resistance artillery is bombarding Zionist assembly points while the enemy tries to retrieve its soldiers' bodies from the site of the Shihin operation, which left over 10 Zionist soldiers killed or wounded.

A statement by the Islamic Resistance details the Shihin operation: Again, in the heroic village of Shihin in Jabal 'Amil, the invading and occupying Zionist forces suffered casualties at the hands of the Islamic Resistance mujahidin. At 1930 last night, the Martyr 'Abd-al-Mawla Isma'il Group of the Islamic Resistance detonated an explosive charge as an Israeli foot patrol passed near Shihin, killing or wounding !0 Zionist soldiers. All the Islamic Resistance fighters returned safely to base.

The statement says Zionist helicopters evacuated the casualties and a Zionist unit arrived at the scene and combed the surrounding area.

The statement concludes: The Islamic Resistance vows to its blessed martyrs and its steadfast people to remain loyal to the teachings of Imam Khomeyni and leader Khamene'i. The Resistance will continue to give its full backing to the Islamic intifadah in the occupied territories until Israel, that cancerous gland, is excised. God will grant us victory.

Attack on SLA Reported

NC1210093893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Israeli gunboats have been cruising off the coast between al-Zahrani and al-Naqurah since 0845 today, once directing machine-gun fire at the al-Shawakir beach near Tyre. Israeli helicopters overflew al-Naqurah.

At dawn today, an Islamic Resistance group detonated an explosive charge as a Lahd patrol passed on the 'Alman-al-Shumariyah road. A Resistance statement released this morning claimed many patrol personnel were killed or wounded. The occupation forces raked the outskirts of 'Alman and al-Shumariyah and the al-Litani River bank with artillery and machine-gun fire.

Islamic Jihad on 8 Oct Attack on Israel

NC0910072893 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Islamic Jihad in Palestine has emphasized that while those who claim to have been representing our struggling peoples for decades are collapsing, Islam's greatest generation in Palestine and in the diaspora is rising up to affirm that Palestine will always exist in the history of this great nation and that the people will draw its maps and outline its borders with their blood.

A statement by the Islamic Jihad notes that on this basis, a group of our fighters penetrated the artificial security belt into Palestine, where they hit one of the enemy's patrols and returned safely to their bases.

The Islamic Jihad concludes its statement by emphasizing that Palestine, from the river to the sea, is the homeland of the Palestinian people. It stressed the need for unity among the Islamic, pan-Arab, and national forces to confront the Gaza-Jericho new security belt scheme.

Al-Shar' Returns From U.S. Visit

JN0810213893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening, concluding an official visit to Washington. During the visit, he conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to U.S. President Bill Clinton. [passage omitted]

'New Chapter' in U.S. Relations Hailed

JN0910074893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, TISHRIN discusses the Middle East peace process and the importance of the Syrian role in achieving peace. The paper says the U.S. position stresses the importance of that role, emphasizing continued work and cooperation with President Hafiz al-Asad to realize that goal.

TISHRIN says: This U.S. position is not something new. It has not emerged from a vacuum. The dialogue between Washington and Damascus, which went on for two years, and contacts between the United States and Middle Eastern capitals, confirm there can be no peace without Syria and no stability in the region unless Syria plays an effective role.

TISHRIN explains: What is new in the U.S. position is the public affirmation by President Clinton himself that Syria has a key role to play in the peace process. This role will, naturally, be positive if others wish to build genuine peace in the Middle East.

TISHRIN adds: President Hafiz al-Asad's message to the U.S. President and President Clinton's affirmations—which constitute a public, positive response to that message—invalidate all the excuses Israel has tried to use to obstruct the peace process and blame Syria, and also foiled all attempts to harm the Syrian position. The Syrian position is based on a firm belief in a just peace that will give each his own rights and which is based on the UN legitimacy and the resolutions of the international community.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: The new chapter in the U.S.-Syrian dialogue, as demonstrated by President al-Asad's message to President Clinton and the subsequent intensive activity by Foreign Minister al-Shar' in Washington, has put things in their proper order again after some people tried to leap into the unknown; it has built clear foundations for action in the forthcoming phase, during which Syria will play the most important role.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanese Prime Minister

JN1110164393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at 1215 today. Talks centered on the Middle East peace process and cooperation and coordination between the two countries to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

Al-Ahmar Meets With Joint Council's al-Khuri

JN1110145793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received Nasri al-Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council. They discussed brotherly relations between Syria and Lebanon, as well as coordination between the two fraternal countries in light of the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty, in order to serve their joint goals and interests.

Talks also centered on the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council's role in coordinating and implementing the various aspects of the Brotherhood Treaty in the interest of both countries' peoples.

Press on 'Unity' of Syrian, Lebanese Tracks

JN1010085493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Importance of Being Armed With Basic Constants of Just, Comprehensive Peace," AL-BA'TH speaks about President Hafiz al-Asad's message to U.S. President Bill Clinton, in which he asserted Syria's commitment to the bilateral talks to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region, stemming from the Madrid conference foundations and in implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land for peace principle.

The paper says this new emphasis on comprehensiveness in line with international resolutions comes at a time when various attempts are under way to propagate partial, unilateral solutions.

AL-BA'TH asserts that Syria, which did all it could to make the peace process succeed, warned before, during, and after the Madrid conference, about Israel's policy of taking on the Arabs one at a time. Syria also showed the dangers separate solutions pose to pan- Arab and national issues.

Syria has emphasized that the Arabs should be more vigilant and careful and should be armed with the basic constants of a just, comprehensive peace—the constants through which we will regain our Arab rights.

AL-BA'TH notes there is an Israeli onslaught that aims to secure recognition by all Arabs before a just, comprehensive peace in the region is achieved.

The paper says what has happened recently is a breakthrough for Israel and its policies. As for the Arabs, they have not gained anything. The opposite is true.

The paper concludes: In any event, we will continue to work very seriously with everybody to achieve a just, comprehensive peace that restores all Arab rights. Anyone who thinks that Syria might accept anything short of that is mistaken, whatever the circumstances.

Under the headline "Comprehensive Peace Is the Objective," TISHRIN says: The objective of reaching a just, comprehensive peace at this stage is a basic, important point in the meetings, contacts, and efforts made by Syria at all Arab, regional, and international levels. This stems from a great concern to continue and advance the peace process on the basis of real, serious implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, the land for peace principle, Syria's restoration of the Golan in full, and Lebanon's restoration of its occupied south.

TISHRIN adds: Israel is trying to circumvent the will of the international community. It daily says that it will not abandon the Arab territories, especially southern Lebanon and the Golan. Israel will find itself besieged by a unified Syrian-Lebanese stance that does not cede one inch of the south and the Golan and a strong, solid commitment by Syria and Lebanon to the unity of the two tracks and to not dividing them. This proves that Syria and Lebanon are serious about the unity of their tracks and about not separating them, whatever the attempts, circumstances, and pressures.

The paper adds: While sounding the alarm, Syria is fully aware that any Israeli violation of the constants of a just, comprehensive solution will create a dangerous atmosphere in the region. This will not be in the interest of making peace and achieving stability in the region and will only serve Israeli objectives and intentions which are totally hostile to peace.

The paper notes that Syria has welcomed the assertions made by President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher, in which the U.S. Administration maintained its commitment to achieving progress on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks, and to advancing and invigorating the peace process through the U.S. role as a sponsor of the peace process, full partner, and honest broker to bring about a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

Paper Urges Maintenance of Israeli Boycott

JN1210091393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Considerable Effort Needed if Peace Process To Survive," AL-BA'TH writes: Having secured gains from the Gaza-Jericho accord, Israel is now pursuing other advantages at the expense of Arab territory and the Arab individual. Toward that end, Israel is mounting a frantic effort to get the Arab boycott regime dismantled and all UN resolutions damning its practices of aggression, expansion, and terrorism revoked.

AL-BA'TH asks how the Arabs can think of scrapping the boycott of Israel while peace is still uncertain and Arab territory is still under occupation. The paper argues that it goes without saying that the boycott regime cannot be annulled until Arab rights are restored in full. Since the reasons that prompted the boycott in the first place are still there, it goes on, the embargo must stay in place. The root causes of the Middle East conflict have yet to be satisfactorily addressed. AL-BA'TH notes that Israel continues to hold Arab territory, refusing to be bound by a withdrawal from East Jerusalem and the entire Golan Heights and a repatriation of Palestinian refugees.

Through the most recent breach it made in Arab ranks, Israel is out to achieve the goals it failed to fulfill by aggression. AL- BA'TH urges alertness and wariness on the Arabs' part, especially given the Israeli enemy's calculation that the Gaza-Jericho accord has brought peace, while the reverse is really the case. What happened in Washington on 13 September has hurt the peace process that was launched by the U.S. Administration, AL-BA'TH argues. The paper concludes by stating that a just and general peace will not come from the breaches in Arab ranks that Israeli is pursuing.

On the same theme, TISHRIN writes: The Israeli Government is now trying to suggest that a settlement under occupation is possible. A look at Israel's behavior following the Gaza-Jericho accord, however, shows the Rabin government to be less than interested in bringing peace to the Middle East. Instead, it is interested in keeping the region volatile and transforming the Arab-Zionist conflict into an Arab-Arab conflict. Treachery and illusions are hardly the stuff of which peace is made, and certainly will not bring the conflict to an end. Israel, TISHRIN adds, is deluding itself if it thinks that peace is possible under occupation or without a real solution to the Palestinian issue.

All the world now appreciates that Israel's aggressive policies are responsible for tension and wars and that stability and security will remain elusive as long as Israel remains an aggressor and occupier and as long as certain Arab parties feel wronged and their rights are unrecognized.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Peace will remain an unattainable objective as long as occupation, repression, terrorism, and expansionism remain hallmarks of Israeli policies and the threat of Israeli aggression continues to hang over the region.

'Good Preparation' For Talks Urged

JN0910170693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel has portrayed the Gaza-Jericho agreement—during the first critical days in which there was a requirement to promote it—as if it is the key to progress toward a comprehensive peace. However, hardly had the ink on the agreement dried when Israel turned the picture upside down, demanding time for it to digest the agreement, which is equivalent to an obstruction of the move toward peace. We ask: Was the agreement originally intended to be the gate to a comprehensive peace or was it intended to close this gate as was later confirmed by Israel's practices?

We do not deny that many people in the world were inspired by the way this agreement was initially portrayed to them. Perhaps this explains the grand ceremony that accompanied the agreement and the resonant statements used to describe it. However, as soon as the hubbub of the ceremony calmed down, the picture became clear and Israel's objectives for the agreement were exposed. It became clear to the world that the desired comprehensive peace is not close at hand, but has become even more farfetched after the agreement, which, in fact, opened the window for separate and partial deals that cannot be attributed to peace.

This paradox between the portrayal of this agreement to the world and the picture, which became clear through Israeli practices, reveals how Israel used the world's sincere intentions by portraying the agreement as an accomplishment on the road to peace while, in fact, this is far from being the case.

It seems that the world community is now becoming aware of the dimensions of the Israeli process of deception and is sensing the intentions behind the Israeli efforts to obstruct the comprehensive peace process under the pretext of digesting the partial agreement. This awareness is reflected in an emphasis on the need to continue the peace process. However, we must note here that ideas to stop Israeli maneuvers to obstruct the peace process should not be confined to a call for more rounds of bilateral talks in Washington. Indeed, Israel can turn any upcoming round into philosophical discussions that are void of substance and waste time in Byzantine deliberations on what comes first, the chicken or the egg?

This means that Israel will undoubtedly try to circumvent any good intentions behind the call for a new round of Washington bilateral talks by turning the round into a forum for semantics and wasting time.

Syria is keen to foil Israel's maneuvers to obstruct the road to a comprehensive peace by stressing that any upcoming round of talks should be preceded by good preparation that really pushes the peace process toward its desired objective. Holding more procedural rounds without preparation on content will serve Israel's efforts to sabotage the peace process and thus have a negative result that contradicts the objective behind the call for more rounds of negotiations.

Paper: Withdrawal From Golan Only Chance

JN0810094593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline: "The Key to Peace," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH explains the bases of the peace process, pointing out that Israel is not serious about this process and that its participation in it was only meant to hide Israel's anti-peace nature.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that Isrel's policy toward both the peace process and its bases remains unchanged. Israel rejects real peace, avoids the requirements of peace, and does not hesitate to obstruct the peace talks in order to impede their progress and prevent a just and comprehensive peace that would regain the Arab rights and territories.

The paper points to Shamir's [as heard] insistence on rejecting both full withdrawal and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights. It also points to Peres' recent statement rejecting the withdrawal from the Golan. AL-THAWRAH says: Through its misleading methods and rejection of full withdrawal from the Golan, Israel proves that it does not support the peace efforts and opportunities, and that it ignores the fact that the fate of peace in the region depends on the Syrian track's future. Israel also ignores the fact that partial and marginal solutions and compromises do not serve peace; they rather intensify the regional situation and undermine any possible opportunity for a just and comprehensive solution and lasting peace.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the whole world has agreed that the Syrian track is important and that the Syrian position on everything related to the peace process and its objective is sound. This is proven by the fact that this position is highly regarded by the international community.

The paper adds: Syria's role in launching the peace process and in its concern for its continuation as a means for a just and comprehensive peace show the importance of the Syrian track and position. Syria also gave the peace process several opportunities despite deliberate Israeli impediments.

As President Hafiz al-Asad explained, Syria opened the way for peace when it agreed on the U.S. initiative based on implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and exchanging land for peace.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Real peace can only be established in the region through a full withdrawal from the Golan and other occupied Arab territories.

Damascus Termed 'Major Player' in Process

JN0810161493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: All signs indicate that Israel is not serious about the peace process and that its participation in it was only aimed at concealing its hostile nature to peace. Its policy and bases on this process are still the same. It rejects true peace and its requirements and it does not hesitate to create obstacles to block peace talks and prevent a just and comprehensive peace that will restore the rights and the territories to their rightful owners.

This fact has been confirmed to the world time and again by Shamir's rejection of the principles of total withdrawal and his refusal to recognize the Palestinian people's rights. It was also reaffirmed today by Israelis who are echoing Shamir's previous statements, which led to the current situation of the peace talks, and who are returning to the policy of procrastination and maneuvers. This, as well as Rabin's statements expressing his rejection of the Palestinians' right to return, prove that Israel has no serious desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. Rabin's attempt to use the Gaza-Jericho agreement to give the impression that peace has been achieved is only a misleading position and is aimed at belittling and ignoring the Syrian track or at least blackmailing it in order to replace the principle of total withdrawal from the Golan by the concept of partial withdrawal, on which Rabin focused when he talked about withdrawal from the Golan.

By its misleading method and its rejection of total withdrawal from the Golan, Israel proves that it not only rejects peace efforts and opportunity, but also ignores the fact that the fate of peace and the peace process in the region depends on the future of the Syrian track. Similarly, it ignores the fact that partial, marginal, and compromise solutions will not serve peace but will undermine any possible opportunity for a just and comprehensive peace.

The whole world is unanimous on the importance of the Syrian track and the soundness of Syria's position on all factors of the peace process and its goal. This is clear because Syria's position has garnered great respect and deep appreciation from the international community. Syria also demonstrated the importance of its track and position by launching the peace process and stressing its eagerness to continue it as a means to reach a just and comprehensive peace and to provide opportunities for it despite Israel's deliberate attempt to hinder it.

Syria, President Hafiz al-Asad said, has opened the way to peace by approving the U.S. initiative based on the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the exchange of land for peace. This indicates that Syria has a major role in everything relating to the solution in the region and that peace without Syria is impossible. Syria is not an ordinary player that can be omitted from the equations of conflict and peace. Syria is not a party that can be ignored or overlooked.

Hence, true peace cannot find its way to the region without a total withdrawal from the Golan and all the other occupied Arab territories because Syria, which is the major player in the peace process, has reaffirmed that a just and comprehensive solution is the only way for peace. When Israel accepts this reality without maneuvering, blackmailing, or misleading and shows its acceptance through a practical position on the ground, we can say that Israel has taken a serious position and that a just and comprehensive peace has become possible.

Israel Pushing Camel Through Needle's Eye

JN1110151593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel cannot publicly oppose comprehensive peace in the region because such a step will lead to international protest. At the same time, it cannot declare it has accepted the Gaza-Jericho agreement as a partial, unilateral deal to cut the road to peace. As a compromise to avoid the anger of the international community—which wants to see peace in the Middle East—Israel has invented a formula saying that the road to a comprehensive peace should first go through the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Such a formula might help Israel achieve its goals under the agreement, without being asked to guarantee movement toward a comprehensive peace. Israel can justify delaying progress toward peace under the pretext of awaiting the translation of the partial agreement into facts on the ground. This formula means Arab parties should wait calmly for a peace timed in accordance with circumstances, developments, and success or failure of the Gaza- Jericho agreement.

In other words, Israel is trying to push the camel through the needle's eye. The question is not one of the camel's ability to fit in the eye of the needle; the answer to that is natural and certain. But what if the eye itself is closed? In other words, what will happen if the Gaza-Jericho agreement, in which each point needs negotiations and agreements, fails when the Palestinian people find out that it does not meet their interests or if Israel retreats and does not implement what is demanded from it under the agreement? Will this mean undermining the entire peace prospect in the region or suspending it, pending a solution to all these problems?

The seeds of the agreement's failure are contained in the agreement itself. It may not meet the interests of both parties or the interests of one party. If the Palestinian people find that the agreement does not meet their interests, it may be doomed to failure. Israel's suggestion, through forging matters, that those who oppose, or who may oppose, the Gaza-Jericho agreement are

against peace is far from reality. The question is not opposition to peace but to an agreement, in which the parties involved will find out that it does not meet their interests.

Israel's enthusiasm about the agreement cannot guarantee opening doors to it. It is only a feeling of those involved in it that their interest in implementing it will open these doors. We would like to say that linking the future of peace in the region with the success or failure of the Gaza-Jericho agreement may undermine all peace prospects in the region. This matter should be considered carefully by those who still believe they can get the camel through the needle's eye.

Al-Zu'bi on Measures To Improve Power

JN0710155193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The People's Assembly met under Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah this morning. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi attended the meeting. Also attending the meeting were Rashid Akhrarini, the deputy prime minister for services affairs; Dr. Salim Yasin, the deputy prime minister for economic affairs; and ministers.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi responded to deputies' questions on the electricity situation and living conditions. He stressed that the government is following up the implementation of President Hafiz al-Asad's instructions to tackle the electricity situation. Toward this end, he said, working plans have been prepared to improve the electricity situation. Such plans cover maintenance and repair, making the best use of the available electricity capabilities, and building new power plants to meet the real power needs. He indicated that the electricity situation is constantly improving. He said that contracts were signed recently for building power plants with a total capacity of approximately 1,000 megawatts.

The prime minister indicated that at the beginning of 1994, there will be minimal electricity rationing thanks to the ongoing repair and maintenance operations and to the activation of a second turbine at the Tishrin Thermal Station.

The prime minister said that in view of the concluded contracts for building power stations, power capacity will redouble. He said that these stations will be completed in record time to meet the real needs for electric power.

Referring to statistics and figures, the prime minister explained the measures that have been taken to repair and maintain the existing power plants. He also explained the measures that have been taken to provide the requirements of the power projects under construction with the aim of expediting the execution and exploitation of these projects. He also briefed the assembly on contracts for building new projects and the time limits that have been set for completion. He said that these new sources will make it possible to meet the real power needs of the citizens and production and services sectors, taking into account the great and growing needs for electricity. He noted that it is citizens' right to obtain the real amount of their electricity needs.

The prime minister stressed the government's readiness to cooperate with the People's Assembly in following up the implementation of the plans designed to improve the electricity situation. He noted that such cooperation is part of the relationship of integration between the legislative and executive authorities. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Mojahedin Factions Trade Artillery Fire

BK1010113093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1120 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Report by Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Oct 10 (AFP)—Kabul's western suburbs were lashed by a storm of heavy weapons fire Sunday morning as two mojahedin factions clashed, with more than 30 civilians and an unknown number of gunmen injured.

One tank shell smashed through a steel-reinforced concrete wall of a ward in the Dasht-e-Barchi first-aid clinic in west Kabul, killing two and wounding three.

"It was morning visiting time when the shell struck. It killed one of the patients and one visitor, and wounded the second patient and two other visitors," said Dr Said Hussein Ali Parwar, pointing to the remains of the twisted tank shell lying on the clinic floor amid the blood-stained rubble.

The south Kabul Karte Se hospital, which is financed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), had already dealt with by mid-morning 10 out-patients and 11 admittances, one of whom died.

The relatively low number of civilian casualties in the fighting that started early Sunday and finished at noon is due to the fact that most of the bombardment was between military posts on the edge of civilian areas.

The clashes were between two different ethnic groups: the Hazara Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat and the Pashtun Sunnite Ettihad-e-Eslami, both Muslim religious sects.

Many civilian houses in the Wahdat-controlled Dasht-e-Barchi area were hit by long-range rockets at the same time as Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani left Kabul on a state visit to Saudi Arabia.

One wing of a Hazara house in Dasht-e-Barchi was demolished by a missile which tore holes through the roof and walls, blasting out windows and heavily damaging the interior.

A young boy said he survived the blast by sheltering in an underground bunker with the other 24 members of his family when the early morning bombardment started. No one were injured.

"I excused myself from school today to help clear up this mess," the boy said, as he attempted to clear rubble with a straw broom.

His father said that although a special commission had been appointed to pay compensation for houses destroyed in the factional clashes, the amounts were much lower than the reconstruction costs.

"They pay only for the replacement of windows, but my total costs will be more than 10 times this amount," he said.

Flanking Dasht-e-Barchi on the westernmost outskirts of Kabul, in the near-deserted Kushal Mena suburb, Ettihad mojahedin were seen firing salvoes at Wahdat from a jeep-mounted multi-barrel rocket launcher.

Wahdat replied with mortar and rocket fire, some of it directed against posts of Defence Ministry troops occupying the western mountain range of Kabul, sending giant plumes of smoke and dust skywards.

The troops, loyal to ex-Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, did not get involved in the exchange, but stayed neutral.

The Ettihad mojahedin claimed Prime Minister Hekmatyar's Pashtun Hezb-e Eslami were aiding Wahdat in these clashes, which have been gaining intensity over the past two weeks.

"Mas'ud is not helping us because he wants to see the Pashtuns annihilate each other," said an Ettihad gunman.

Ettihad and Mas'ud's forces are nominal allies against the combined forces of Wahdat and Hezb-e Eslami, which control the bulk of south and western Kabul.

From the far south of Kabul, Wahdat could be seen firing rockets at an Ettihad position on a strategic hill, from which the Dasht-e-Barchi clinic was shelled.

Ettihad mojahedin claimed Wahdat had tried a night assault in order to capture the hill but had been repulsed.

In a written statement, an Ettihad spokesman telephoned journalists in Kabul warning of a new Shiite alliance against Ittihad, saying they had declared a religious war against the Sunnite sect.

The other Wahdat ally is the Shiite Harakat-e Eslami faction led by Ayatullah Asef Mohseni, who returned to Kabul last Friday after medical treatment overseas.

Armed Clashes in West Kabul

LD1010172593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Intensive armed clashes began in western Kabul between the forces of Ettehad-e Eslami-e formation [Islamic Union of Afghanistan] and Wahdat-e Eslami Party [Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan] this morning at 0100 hours and continued until noon today.

Quoting security sources, a BAKHTAR Information Agency correspondent reported that during the fighting both sides attacked each other positions by using heavy weapons and infantry attacks were also mounted. As a result of the clashes, damages and losses have been inflicted on both sides, as well as on the local people.

The country's security forces say that the reasons for these clashes were the result of sporadic clashes [between the sides] during the last few days, which took place between the two parties in the west of Kabul.

Hezbe-e Eslami Attack in Sarubi

LD1110180893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] The Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Hekmatyar, contrary to the Jalalabad agreements and other accords concerning the cessation of war, at around 0600 hours this morning launched a well-planned attack against positions of Islamic army units and posts belonging to the Hezb-e Eslami of Mawlawi Yunes Khales; the National Front [Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani]; the Harekat-e Enqelab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolution Movement, led by Nabi Mohammadi] and other Jehadi forces stationed in Sarubi district. The attack was launched by Commander Zardad.

Quoting security sources, a military correspondent from the BAKHTAR Information Agency reports: Today's attacks by Zardad's forces have begun without any [word indistinct] reason or pretense and have caused material damage and loss of life. Islamic Army units have responded against this offensive and have repelled the attacks. These lunatic attacks, which have resulted in the deaths of non-military persons and have caused the destruction of their homes, have aroused the anger of the people in Sarubi district. Those wounded at the incident have been moved to Kabul city hospitals and are undergoing treatment.

The security forces added that after the beginning of the attack, Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami sent three BM-21 units and seven vehicles carrying fighters to help Zardad.

A military commentator from BAKHTAR Information Agency writes in this regard: Since the victory of the Islamic revolution and the establishment of the Islamic State, Golboddin Hekmatyar—in various guises and with a variety of pretexts—has begun several wars and transformed most areas of Kabul city into ruins. In order to justify his wars, he once made esteemed Sebghatollah Mojaddedi the subject of his excuses and said that accepting the government of U.S. President George Bush is better than obeying the Mojaddedi government. Then he used the military forces in the north [belonging to General Dostam] as an excuse and dragged the city into bloodshed and into the ground.

When this excuse was no longer justifiable, he portrayed the existence of esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud at the Defense Ministry as the cause of war. Now that esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud has left the Defense Ministry and Hekmatyar himself has become the prime minister and is working at his post, then what other pretext will he put forward for this new (?adventure)? It is without doubt that inflaming such wars will result in nothing but the price of the blood of our Muslim nation and the destruction of their homes. Our compatriots are once again witness to the start of another round of war by Mr. Hekmatyar, the country's prime minister. The Islamic State of Afghanistan is sincerely bound to all its agreements and has not shown any negligence toward the implementation of these agreements. However, this does not mean that it will remain indifferent to such hostile provocations and will not give the necessary answer to adventurist acts.

Bangladesh

Bomb Attack Leaves Party Leader, 8 Others Wounded

BK1210061493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0431 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 12 (AFP)—Authorities in a south-eastern Bangladesh town have banned public gatherings following bomb attacks on a convoy that left a senior ruling party leader and eight others wounded, newspapers reported Tuesday [12 October].

Mahbubul Alam, who is also parliamentary whip for the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) headed by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, received minor injuries in Monday's attack in his home town of Feni, the reports said.

The attacks were blamed on local opposition Awami League (AL) activists, they said, adding that the district magistrate had imposed the ban until further notice.

Alam, whose official car was also damaged, was on a visit to the town ahead of local municipal elections scheduled for October 17.

No independent confirmation on the identity of the attackers was immediately available, nor was the AL available for comment.

Among the injured were the district BNP president Shamsul Huq, deputy district police chief and Alam's private secretary, the pro-government Dainik Bangla reported, adding that police accompanying the convoy fired in the air to disperse the attackers. Huq was among the two persons admitted to district hospital with serious wounds.

In a statement published Tuesday in Dhaka, BNP Secretary General and Local Government Minister Abdus Salam Talukder alleged that the attackers belonged to AL.

He said they lobbed bombs and threw stones as Alam's convoy was crossing a group of opposition poll campaigners at the town's crowded intersection.

"The Awami League wants to reap the benefits through such planned terrorist activities" ahead of the polls, Talukder said.

Iran

Musavi-Ardabili Leads Tehran Friday Prayers

Condemns 'Arafat 'Compromise'

LD0810121593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Oct

[Text] With the people's mass participation, the political- religious rites of Friday prayers were held throughout the country. In Tehran, the Friday prayers were led by Ayatollah Abdulkarim Musavi-Ardabili, the provisional Friday prayer leader of Tehran.

In his sermons, Musavi-Ardabili described the ceaseless struggles of the Muslim nation of Iran against the opportunistic objectives of the American Government and its crimes in various parts of the world. He stressed: With their obedience to the eminent leader [Khamene'i], the Muslim nation of Iran will never compromise with the American Government.

In another part of his remarks, Musavi-Ardabili condemned 'Arafat's compromise with the Zionist regime, and said this compromise was aimed at confronting the intifadah, the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian nation. He then emphasized the continuation of the Islamic struggle of the Muslim Palestinian youth.

In Tehran's Friday prayer sermons today, Ayatollah Musavi- Ardabili also considered publicity for the sake of advancing religious issues as the most fundamental duty of religious scholars. Basing his remarks on Koranic verses, he said that wisdom, exhortation, and proper debate constituted the best methods for propagation of Islam.

Attacks Proponents of U.S. Ties

NC0810141693 Paris AFP in English 1329 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct 8 (AFP)—A senior clergyman, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, on Friday strongly condemned any efforts in Iran towards normalising relations with the United States as an insult to Islam and the Iranian revolution.

"Those who have fought against the former regime are still alive and will resist such attempts till the last drop of their blood," Musavi-Ardabili said in reference to the 1979 Islamic revolution against the pro-American Shah.

"So those who have spoken in favor of ties with the United States better repent or they will be confronted by the people," said the former head of the supreme court and a fundamentalist hardliner.

Musavi-Ardabili's comments during Friday prayers followed the disclosure of a letter by a moderate parliamentarian, in which he had advised Iranian leaders to take the first step towards restoration of ties with Washington.

"Our interests are tied to those of the United States," the letter said, quoted by JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper. "All the harsh slogans we chant against this country are not in line with Iran's interests."

Iran and the United States broke diplomatic relations in 1980 after American diplomats were taken hostage by Iranian radicals.

The letter sparked a strong reaction in the Iranian press and radical circles and several newspapers urged the parliament to take action against its author.

"Such boldness should not be tolerated," the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said. "We should prove, through our strong and effective response, that the letter does not reflect the wish of the revolution, but that of a western-influenced and self-loathing figure."

The author, whose name has not been officially revealed, has called for an end to anti-U.S. slogans and for a "step-by-step" policy towards better relations with Washington.

In a speech to a group of foreign-based diplomats last month, Iran's spiritual guide Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i rejected any negotiations with the United States towards restoration of ties.

The leader's comments were largely interpreted in political and journalistic circles here as a response to the parliamentarian's letter.

Tehran Radio Broadcasts Sermon

LD0810171193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1159 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardebili in Tehran on 8 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted urging the people to observe piety] There are two issues that have caused me a great deal of sorrow. I thought a lot to see whether I should make some remarks about them, even if they are short and brief remarks, or whether it is not my duty to do so. My firm conclusion was that it was my duty [to talk about them].

One of those issues, the first issue which in my view is the more important issue, is the issue of some discordant noises which one hears from certain quarters. Even though they will not lead to anything, even though they will be of very little consquence, even though they are very insignificant, nevertheless from time to time one comes across some ideas emanating from certain pens, tongues, and thoughts regarding a compromise with America, cooperation with America, agreement with America, getting closer to America, or in reality submission to America. This is an issue which in our revolutionary society should never—even on rare occasions—emanate from anyone's pen, from anyone's tongue, from anyone's thought.

Our revolution is still within the first half of its second decade. The first half of the second decade is not complete yet. Our revolution was an Islamic revolution, a divine revolution, a religious revolution. How is it that some people have the temerity to allow themselves to make such false, absurd, outrageous, unwise, and anti-religious remarks? What do they wish to achieve by making such remarks?

In making such remarks do they really wish to start a debate in society so that people can discuss those issues, all the pros and cons can be discussed so that gradually the issue may be elucidated, gradually the truth may be clarified? Do they only wish to raise an issue, raise a theory in society so that some people may agree with it and some may oppose it, some will speak for it and some against it, and finally the issue will be properly resolved? Are they raising these issues through good-will? Are they really concerned about our well-being? Is it because they see that we have moved away from America and they believe that in today's world if someone is not under America's umbrella he will have to burn under the sun and be destroyed? Is this what they have in mind? Is it because they really believe that it is their right to say these things, that there is freedom of expression, freedom of writing, and in the same way that others are free, they too are also free to say what they wish to say? If others say death to America, are they also free to say cooperation with America? [crowd shouts: Death to America]

Is it their wish to raise an issue so as to discover the public reaction to it, to see how many anti-Americans there are and how many pro-Americans there are? Is it because they wish to discover whether one can raise certain issues or not? Is it because they wish to discover whether the people have become fed up with their revolution, have repented from their actions, have discovered that the path they had followed was a false path? Are they [those who raise these issues] engaged in an experiment? Or is it because they know that the revolutionary Iranian society and the ever-on- the-scene ummah [Islamic community] will not permit such a thing? [Crowd shouts: God is Great, Death to America, other slogans]

Or do they think that one should gradually say such things, so that ears may get used to them. At first, they sound very discordant, at first one is amazed, gradually they become commonplace and, finally, we should follow that path. They feel that they should do this. At first, there may be the need for one or two sacrifices. One has to accept those sacrifices so that one can finally show that true [said sarcastically] path to the people. I strongly feel that their intention is the last one.

However, the fact that in our society, during this period of revolution, anyone could have witnessed the past ten years, could have seen the families of the martyrs, could have seen the graveyards of the martyrs, could have seen the mutilated bodies, could have seen what that murderous criminal [Saddam Husayn] did to this country on the one hand, and also saw how America supported a person who had turned to her, could see what America did to the Soviet Union, how she cut it into small morsels [loqmeh kard], how she cut it into small shreds, how she encouraged fratricide in that country—even now she is not giving up, even now she has not had enough—how she bought all their basic industries, how she imposed her servant [Yeltsin] on them, how far she has gone on this path.

At the time of Mohammad Shah [Qajar monarch who opposed the constitutional movement] he bombarded the Consultative Assembly [Majles]. We are still ashamed of that event. It is still a mark of disgrace on our history, that in our country the Iranian king bombards the legislative assembly. However, in our time on a clear day Yeltsin shells the legislative assembly, he kills 500 people, he arrests the deputies, yet the world says well done.

Those well-wishers who tell us that if you wish the well-being of this world and the next you should take the first step. They do not say that we should take the second step. They tell us that we should take the first step—that we should not say death to America, but should cooperate with America. What will be the outcome if we wish to cooperate with America? They say that it will produce certain benefits. What are the benefits? They say that one of the benefits is that America will allow us to participate in the decisions which are taken regarding Iraq, that she will give us a role in defining the plan for Persian Gulf security, she will let us participate in solving the problem of Afghanistan, we will be powerful in responding to Turkey. Turkey will not be able to act with such impudence. America will return to us our frozen assets. The issue of Turkey's insolence will be resolved.

We will also be able to solve our problems with the West, because at the moment America does not allow us to solve these problems. Other articles in Resolution 598 [on cease-fire with Iraq, including the payment of reparations to Iran] will be implemented. We will be able to raise our head higher in the Security Council. We will be able to have our say there, to express ourselves, to serve the world of Islam which we cannot do now.

They say these are all the reasons [for cooperating with America], and there are other reasons too. They say that they have only mentioned a few reasons and there are many other major and minor reasons. Therefore, we should go and cooperate with America.

The issue has come to this point, this shamelessness has come to this point that they call on the families of the martyrs to cooperate. With whom? With America. I decided that this was my duty to say today that so long as the present generation is alive, so long as the next generation after the present generation lives on, and I believe that so long as there is an Iran and there are Iranians, there will be no peace with America. [Crowd chants in support]

Allow me! Please allow me! These are not just my words. These words have already been spoken by our combatants [in the war with Iraq], the released PoWs, the families of

martyrs, our eminent leader [Khamene'i], the government, and all conscientious Iranians. If no one raises a voice about these distorted whispers [about resuming ties with the U.S.], it is because the people are aware this country has a leader and a government who are traversing on the path of the revolution. The declared policy of Iran has been made clear. Those who think and imagine that everything has changed completely are indulging in wishful thinking, a wish that they have to take to the grave. [Crowd chants in support of Khamene'i and the Islamic republic and in condemnation of Israel, America, and the enemies of the revolution]

The people choose to be silent because they they can see that there is someone who is speaking [for them]. Our eminent leader speaks, the government speaks, and others speak, so as to maintain a healthy atmosphere. Otherwise if an insignificant element [shab- pareh, literally a moth] is to become involved in the scene, the same people who once rose against the Shah are still around and will resist until the last drop of their blood is shed. [passage omitted political history of Iran in the late 19th and the 20th centuries to demonstrate the historic resistance of the Iranian nation; then moving forward to the Islamic revolution and Khomeyni's leadership]

If these individuals who are trying to induce certain thoughts in people's minds are so caring, why do they not volunteer to act as advisers for 'Arafat, because that is where a deal and a compromise has been reached with America? Such deals are impossible here. They can become advisers for 'Arafat and show him the way. They can say well done to him, and praise what he has done.

This brings me to the second issue which I wanted to address. The shameful act that 'Arafat has committed has brought sorrow for everyone, and has even caused some of us to have bad dreams at night. He has sold 98 percent of an Islamic land, and kept 2 percent of it. He has signed an accord and he now seeks to establish an autonomous government; a government that does not even have the right to print its own banknotes and passports; and a government that is not allowed to settle its nation of refugees in the land it has acquired.

You have all seen 'Arafat's shameful and inauspicious accord. [passage omitted: Koranic verse] 'Arafat alone is not that important. However what is highly important is that things like this should ever appear in the history of Islam. Why has 'Arafat resorted to such a move? Did he intend to suppress the intifadah, waste all the blood shed by Palestinian martyrs, or change the course of the history? Is he not ashamed of himself for acting like a slave and a servant by extending his hand to shake hands with that Zionist boss [Yitzhaq Rabin], who did not even bring his hand forward? Photographers have registered this scene where 'Arafat has extended his hand, while the Zionist boss appears to think that 'Arafat is untouchable [najes—ritually unclean]. Amid all this 'Arafat still claims to be a Muslim. How can you be a Muslim? [passage omitted: Koranic verse on the superiority of the path of Muslims over the path of infidels]

Are you Muslims who deny the Koran? Those gentlemen believe that we should take one step toward America. Do not call it surrender or cooperation, call it what you like, call it a positive approach. That means we should come and say forgive us. Do you think it [the United States] would forgive us if we said that? By God, it would not. [passage omitted on a conversation Ardebili once had with Khomeyni about not weakening one's resolve in the struggle against America and Israel]

There is a possibility that they have no ill intentions, that the devil has beguiled them. They can repent. They should know that if they intend to carry on with that move neither the leader nor that government will allow it, and the people will know what to do. [passage omitted]

Rabin Seen Undermining Tehran-Beijing Alliance

LD1010131193 Tehran IRNA in English 1227 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 10, IRNA—The English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL here Sunday commented on the recent visit of the Zionist Prime Minister Yitzaq Rabin to China, a long-time supporter of the Palestinians, and said that Rabin had embarked on the trip to create new hostilities in the Middle East region.

The daily's editorial wrote that Rabin intended to warn the Chinese of the "dangers" of the Islamic "fundamentalism" and "its threat" to the region because he felt more insecure and isolated since shaking hands with 'Arafat.

"Rabin's China visit is not only to plead his own case against Syria and Iran, but also that of the Americans. Washington is [words indistinct] in the balance of power in the Middle East," the paper added.

It further said that "the idea of Iran having a powerful Asian ally is distasteful to Washington and Tel Aviv. Among all the countries of the Middle East, Islamic Iran has proved to be the toughest nut to crack. The zionists and Americans would not like to see a strong and prosperous Islamic Iran because it does not augur well with their scheme of things for the region."

Pointing out that Rabin's priority during his first visit to China will be to seek a halt of missile sales to Iran and Syria, the editorial concluded by writing that Rabin knew well that Chinese foreign policy was not under Washington influence and that it was economically and politically strong enough not to surrender to U.S. bullying tactics.

Rabin Motives for Visiting China Viewed

LD1110211993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister of the Zionist regime, yesterday arrived in China on a four-day official

visit. Rabin's visit to China in fact is the first trip of the head of the Israeli Government to Beijing. [passage omitted]

Analysts say that the objectives pursued by the Zionist regime's officials in their meeting with the Chinese figures should be viewed from two angles: First, from the Zionist regime's viewpoint, and second from the stand point of China.

Undoubtedly, in the opinion of the Zionist regime, China enjoys a special position in its capacity as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. In fact, if attention is paid to China's geo- strategic importance in Asia, one can say that the Zionist regime is taking a special interest in establishing close ties with Beijing.

Assuredly, the Zionist regime's exit from isolation, especially in Asia, is one of the main goals pursued by the Israeli officials. This is because exit from political isolation, in the opinion of the Israeli officials, will pave the way for the establishment of commercial and economic ties with Asian countries. [passage omitted]

More significantly, sale of arms and exchange of military equipment can also be mentioned among the objectives kept in mind by the Zionist regime.

Based on China's relations with the PLO, the Zionist regime has constantly endeavored that Beijing adopt a more moderate policy in this connection.

According to some political observers, adoption of an independent policy by China, and in view of new developments in the Middle East, coupled with the agreement concluded by the PLO and Israel, Israeli officials have been attempting, through expanding their ties with China, to somehow underplay this contradiction in the ties between the two countries. [passage omitted]

From the other angle, that is from the Chinese viewpoint on upgrading ties with Israel, the issue would be assessed from the aspect of Western pressure on China.

China, in its capacity as a powerful country in Asia, has constantly undergone pressure from the West on the issue of human rights. In particular, the Chinese are well aware of the fact that some of the Western pressures are being brought by the Zionist circles within America, especially by the Israeli lobby in the U.S. Congress.

Therefore, in the opinion of the Chinese officials, establishment of relations with the Zionist regime can considerably reduce international pressure on Beijing.

Undoubtedly, China, despite all the pressures, especially those being brought by the Tel Aviv-Washington axis, has always pursued its interests in the West bloc, particularly in the Middle East. In the same connection, China has tried to adopt a balanced policy in the Middle East, especially in its approach toward Israel and the PLO, as well as in other cases.

At any rate, the trip of Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister of the Zionist regime, to China, at a time when he also holds the post of defense minister, should be assessed as important. The Zionist regime is fervently seeking to explain its stance on the Middle East peace to those countries which enjoy veto power in the UN Security Council, and which have traditionally reacted positively to the Palestinian postures.

Ruhani Criticizes PLO-Israel Accord

LD0810174893 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 8, IRNA—Iran's Secretary of Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), Hasan Ruhani, said here on Thursday [7 October] that the plan to organize fund raising for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was a smoke screen to hide the grassroot opposition to the compromise deal with the Zionist regime.

The designers on the shameful PLO-Israel compromise try to destroy intifada and ignore the inalienable rights of Palestinians, claiming that they are making efforts to help the Palestinian refugees, Ruhani said.

"Palestine belongs to all Palestinians, and no one has the right to make compromise with the Zionists on behalf of Palestinians," Ruhani said.

Rejecting a claim by the compromisers that the deal will be beneficial for peace and security in the region, he said that the pact has no distinctive programme to basically deal with the problems of Palestinians and the ongoing protest movement in Palestine indicates that the allegation that Palestinians are supporting the compromise pact is quite baseless. Creation of a lasting peace requires justice and the Islamic Republic of Iran will not agree with any unjust and dishonourable peace deal which favors consolidation of Israel, he said.

Information Minister Praises Ties With Germany

LD0810211493 Tehran IRNA in English 1916 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Bonn, Oct. 8, IRNA—Minister of Information, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Fallahian here on Thursday night expressed satisfaction on the current information cooperation between Iran and Germany.

Fallahian who is on a two-day visit to Germany said in a news conference that Iran believed that Germany is able to explain Iran's peaceful stance to the world.

Fallahian said that illicit drugs are being abundantly produced in Afghanistan to be smuggled into Europe and that Iran and Germany should have a constant cooperation in combating the drug trafficking. On the baseless rumors of Iran's involvement in terrorism in the West, he said, "we ourselves are the victim of terrorism and expect the friendly countries to help us and not to allow our security to be jeopardized."

He said that Iran not only faces the terrorist groups but also has suffered a terrorism by other states. For instance, the U.S. attacked Iran's Airbus, killing 290 passengers on board in 1988, he said.

He regretted that members of terrorist MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq] are free to launch any vicious propaganda campaign in Germany against the Islamic Republic of Iran and said that the real origin of their existence was not clear to people in the West. They are the fifth column of the enemy spying against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He further added that the terrorist MKO actually engages in terrorist operations against the Islamic Republic in order to earn money. Fallahian said that assassination of Iranian Kurdish leader in Berlin had to do with the infighting in the terrorist groups operating against Iran and that the Islamic Republic of Iran had no part in such events.

Meanwhile, he held talks with his German counterpart, Bernd Schmidbauer, and expressed Iran's readiness to cooperate with Germany and Europe on disarmament of weapons of mass destruction, campaign against drug trafficking and against terrorism.

In a separate meeting with the head of German parliament's Foreign Affairs Commission, Hans Schtergen, on Friday the German parliamentarian said that chancellor, Helmut Kohl, and German officials in charge of foreign policy opposed Iran's isolation and added that the trust existing between Germany and Iran would be (?useful) in establishing stability in other parts of the world.

He said it would be myopic of a country to regard Iran merely for economic considerations, because the political stability of the region and the world should be taken into consideration.

Fallahian said in (?response) that Germany has not [words indistinct] the prevailing propaganda campaign against Iran.

The United States (?tries) to introduce Iran as a great danger to prevent bankrupcy of its arms industry, he said. "If they are real peace seekers, Iran is ready to (?be) the pioneer of disarmament in the region." Fallahian [word indistinct].

Larijani Calls For More German Investment

LD1010164993 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 10, IRNA—Deputy Chief of the Majles Foreign Policy Commission, Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, said here on Sunday that Tehran-Bonn relations should divert from trade to long- term investment in Iran.

In a meeting with the head of the Human Rights Committee of German Parliament, Friedrich Vogel, Larijani assured him that their investments in Iran would be ensured.

He also called on Germany to play a more active role in political events of the Persian Gulf and the newly independent Central Asian republics.

Vogel welcomed formation of parliamentary friendship groups between Iran and Germany and said that the German Parliament was looking forward to host an Iranian delegation headed by Larijani next year.

The German parliamentarian also appreciated Iran's welcome to Germany's application to become a member of the UN Security Council.

Vogel hoped that parliamentary relations between the two countries would promote along with political and economic ties.

German Held for 'Illegal Ties' With Army

LD1010153693 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 10, IRNA—Gerhard Alfred Bechmann [name as received], a German national, was arrested here Saturday because of having illegal ties with the Iranian Army personnel, assisting in the disclosure of military information and bribery.

According to the announcement of the public relations office of the judiciary branch of the Armed Forces, Gerhard Alfred Bechmann was arrested by Tehran's military court yesterday. Investigations as to Bechmann's illegal activities continue.

President on Importance of Shiite-Sunni Solidarity

LD0910113593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaking at a gathering of the people of Torbat-e Jam [in Khorasan province, close to Afghan border], referred to the large share allocated to the border areas in the first economic and social development plan of the country. He said: In the second plan [to start 21 March 1994] too the government will try to give priority to deprived areas. [passage omitted on warm welcome from people in Torbat-e Jam]

Enumerating the spiritual, mystical, and religious characteristics of Torbat-e Jam, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described unity among the Shiites and Sunnis as one of the most important needs of the world of Islam. He said: The unity, solidarity, and unity of expression of the people of Torbat-e Jam can provide an example to Afghanistan, which is in your neighborhood and which is witnessing very harmful and destructive differences. [passage omitted] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described access to railroads and gas as primary requirements for the development and advancement of the region and expressed his hope that both of those would be provided in the near future. [passage omitted]